■ Sports / A28

Red Sox complete record comeback versus Yankees

■ World / A11

CIA oversaw abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, court told

■ News / A2

AFP says plot to bomb US Embassy foiled

■ Across / A17

Witness positive cultist suspect Yongco killer

■ Lifestyle / C1

Wrapping Danes, Swedes in banana fiber

Back to basics menu for the hungry

By Volt Contreras

WHAT'S on the menu for the hungry?

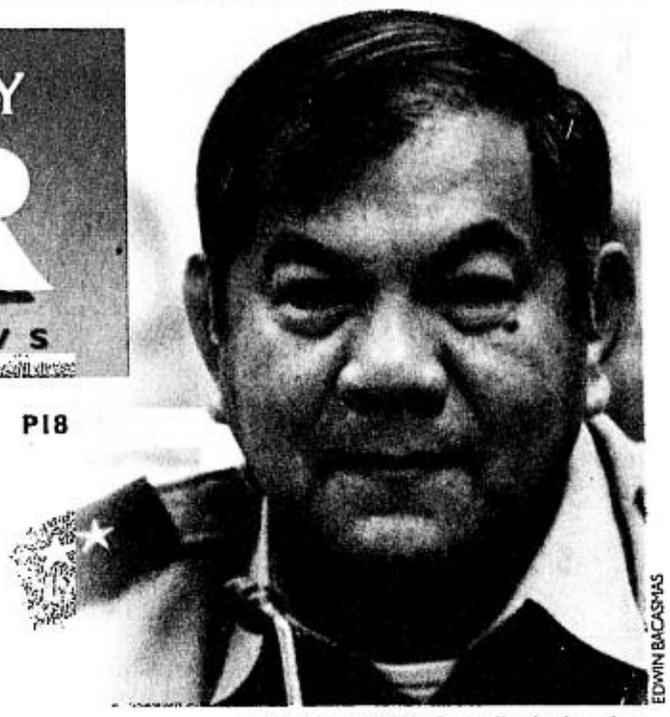
The "basics," said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman as she enumerated yesterday the goodies to be

BACK/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, October 22, 2004 ★★ 70 66 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 317 P18



EDWIN BACASMAS

THE SHADOW of a smile during the House hearing on Thursday seems to lighten up the severely set face of Gen. Carlos F. Garcia in contrast to his previous appearances.

Palace forms new Cabinet 'superbody'

GMA's Office of External Affairs now in operation

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THERE'S a new "superbody" in the Palace, a creation of President Macapagal-Arroyo which cancels out her avowed "reengineering" or downsizing policy in government.

The newly created Office of External Affairs, which according to Malacanang insiders is emerging as a "superbody," appears to duplicate the work of regular line departments.

The source said the OEA was even asking for an initial budget of P100 million.

To eventually become a 100-strong office nationwide, the OEA even has its own "political attaché to the United States"—former militant leader and Angeles City Councilor Alex Cauguiran—to tap Filipino immigrants and expatriates.

Poe Gratela of Migrante will head the OEA's group on overseas Filipino workers.

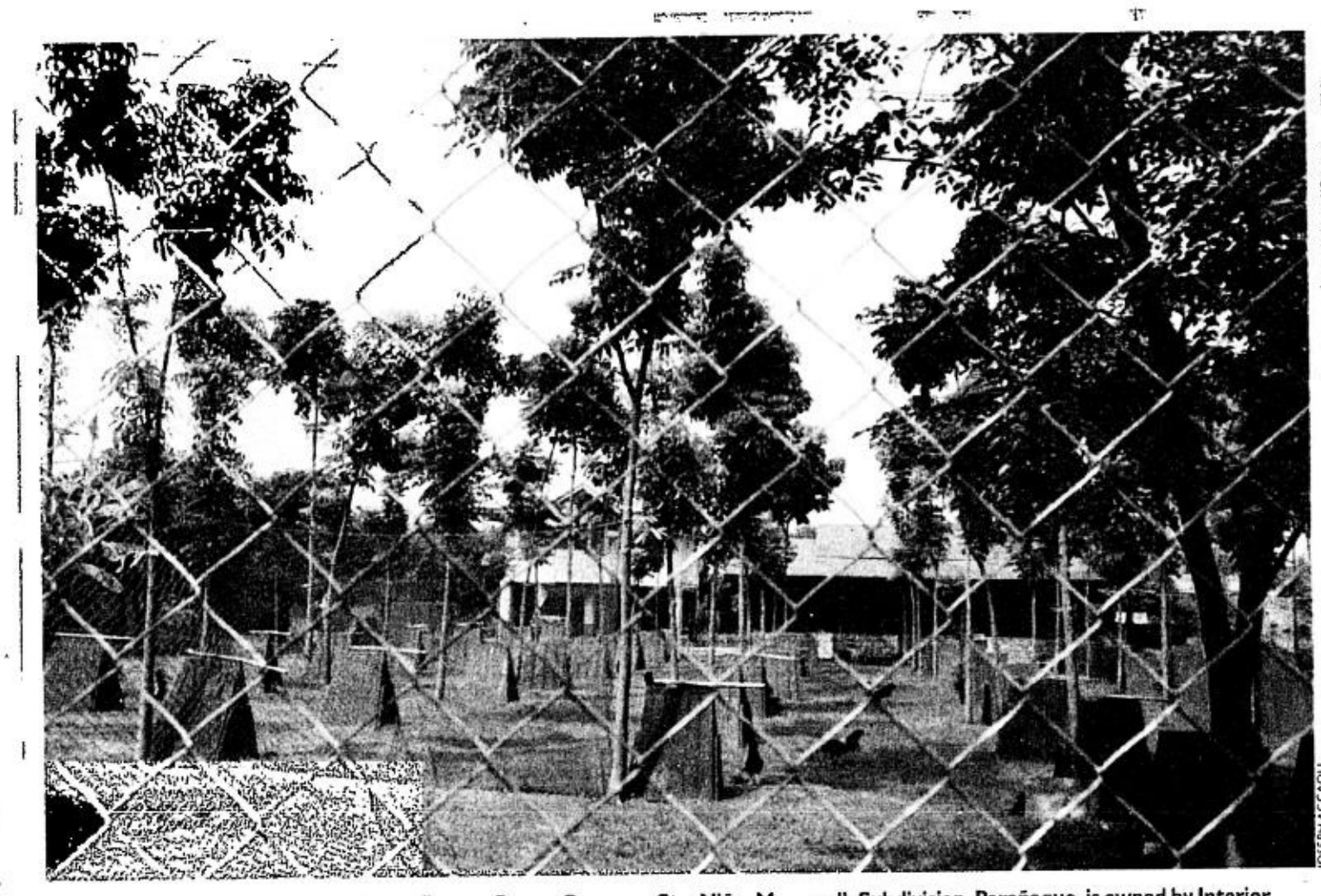
Presidential Adviser for External Affairs Eduardo Pamintuan, who holds Cabinet rank, denied that his office was a newly created redundancy.

"Our work is more on harnessing, developing and consolidating the capabilities of nongovernment organizations and other groups operating outside the government," Pamintuan said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

He said his office would link the government to hundreds of "constituency" groups around the country, from farmers, copra traders, public transport groups, religious sector, indigenous communities, labor groups, to antigovernment groups.

OEA Undersecretary Danny Consumido, who clarified he had not received his appoint-

PALACE FORMS/ A20



JOSEPH AGCAOILI

THIS COCK-BREEDING farm on Daang Batang Street, Barangay Sto. Niño, Moonwalk Subdivision, Parañaque, is owned by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes. About 70 roosters are housed in the half-hectare property. Reyes declared the Parañaque property in his SAL but not the cock farm itself.

Reyes owns cock farm in Parañaque

By Fe Zamora

AS FAR as a barangay tanod of Sto. Niño in Moonwalk Subdivision, Parañaque is concerned, the cock farm is "owned by General Reyes."

"You belong to the media? You should have reported this a long time ago," the watchman even chided the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Tricycle drivers and neighborhood bums were quick to direct the INQUIRER to the "cock-breeding farm of General Reyes."

The property referred to is a cock farm in Moonwalk Subdivision (Phase 2) and the general is Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, former Armed Forces chief of staff and defense secretary.

The 5,000-sq-meter cock farm, located on Daang Batang Street in Barangay Sto. Niño, is enclosed by a high concrete-and-mesh fence.

From the street can be seen

REYES/ A21

₱52M still in Garcia accounts, says SolGen

By Philip C. Tubeza
in Manila
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

NOT ALL of the bank accounts of Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia and his family were closed before the Court of Appeals issued its freeze order last week, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo clarified yesterday.

Benipayo said the appellate court's order came in time to freeze a total of P52,510.980.05 in peso and dollar accounts in five banks as of Oct 15.

"These were the reports we got from five banks covered by the freeze order. We are still waiting for the other two (financial institutions). I cannot disclose the identities of these banks (that had reported back)," he said.

The solicitor general revealed the total amount frozen so far a day after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that all the bank

P52M STILL/ A22

Wife deposits more dollars after US bust

By Carlito Pablo
and Cynthia D. Balana

THE WIFE of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia deposited more than $500,000 in an American bank less than a month after their two sons were held by United States Customs authorities in San Francisco, California, on Dec. 19, 2003, for attempting to bring in undeclared $100,000 in cash into the country.

The transactions of Clarita Depakakibo-Garcia in January 2004 form part of the records of the Office of the Ombudsman, which were furnished by the House committees on national

WIFE/ A21

PMA alumni condemn graft in military

THE ALUMNI association of the Philippine Military Academy yesterday expressed concern over allegations of graft and corruption against senior officers of the military who were graduates of the academy.

In a statement, the PMA Alumni Association Inc. said it was condemning in the strongest terms "any act of graft and corruption in government because we believe that public office is a public trust."

The statement came several days after a text message describing the PMA as the "Philippine Millionaires Academy" was circulated. Another text message read: "What's the best business school in the country? PMA—because it produces millionaires."

A PMA alumnus (Class 1971), Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, is accused of amassing ill-gotten wealth. He is being investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman and will face a court-martial.

Some quarters have warned that the scandal could trigger another destabilization plot against the Arroyo administration.

Some soldiers assigned to Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City told the INQUIRER that their morale was low because of the alleged ill-gotten wealth of top military officials.

"Even my family is already demoralized," an Army sergeant

PMA ALUMNI/ A21

POPULATION ROW

Leave it to couples, GMA tells big business

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Blanche S. Rivera

IN THE FACE of criticism that it was doing little to curb the country's rapid population growth, Malacañang yesterday said it was sticking to its policy of leaving it to couples to choose what birth control method to use and local governments to decide what family planning program to adopt.

For its part, the Department of Health assured critics that the DOH had enough contraceptive pills to distribute to willing couples despite the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to artificial birth control methods.

Business leaders earlier wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo a letter urging her to adopt a more active policy on population control. They warned that 1.8 million people were being added to the Philippine population every year, outstripping the ability of the country of 84 million to feed and educate all its people and hurting its international competitiveness.

Ms Arroyo, a devout Catholic, has said she supports family planning, but she has refused to endorse artificial contraceptives despite the fact that the Philippines has one of the highest birth rates in Asia at 2.36 percent annually.

LEAVE IT/ A22

ERIK ABAZAS

THERE'S more where these come from, declares Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

8 top generals eyed to compose court-martial

By Alcuin Papa

A SHORT LIST of senior military officials who will compose the court-martial that will try Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was announced yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff and spokesperson, said the officials being considered were: Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, chief of the Central Command; Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division; Maj. Gen. Jaime Viernes, Air Force inspector general; Maj. Gen. Allan Cabalquinto, chief of the Special Operations Command; Maj. Gen. Edwin Vargas, deputy chief of staff for Civil Military Operations (J-7); Rear Adm. Abraham Abesamis, deputy chief of staff for electronics, communications and information sys-

8 TOP/ A22

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/22/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

TERROR SUSPECTS. Army chief Lt. Gen. Efren Abu and AFP spokesperson Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan look at the three suspects (from left) Abdul Manap Mentang, Monawara Usop and Mursid Mubpon during their presentation to media. AFP

Plot to bomb US Embassy foiled–AFP

By Alcuin Papa

THREE suspects in the Davao City bombings last year who also allegedly planned to bomb the United States Embassy in Manila have been arrested, the military said yesterday.

The plot to bomb the US Embassy, on orders of the Jemaah Islamiyah Southeast Asian terror network, was foiled after the three suspects were arrested early this month, said Armed Forces spokesperson and deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

Adan presented to the press Abdul Manap Mentang, also known as Al-Molk Panalangin Tanakan; his live-in partner Monawara Usop; and Mursid Mubpon, also known as Guinaid Daud. But the three were not allowed to talk.

Mentang and Usop were arrested last Oct. 6 in a house on Fabie Street in Santa Ana, Manila. Mubpon was arrested the next day in a follow-up operation but authorities did not say where the arrest was made.

Adan said that with the arrest of the three, the bombings of the international airport and city hall on March 4, 2003 and the Sasa wharf in Davao City on April 2, 2003 have been solved. The blasts claimed 38 lives and injured more than 100 other people.

He said authorities also thwarted a terrorist plot "to launch violent attacks against some sensitive installations including that of our foreign allies. It shows the resolve of the Philippine government in its fight against terrorism."

Confession

According to Adan, the three suspects confessed under interrogation that they were responsible for the bombings in Davao City last year, acting on orders of the JI.

They told investigators they were ordered to scout out the US Embassy in Manila last month in preparation for another bombing, Adan said in a statement.

"Mubpon was tasked to design a bomb triggering mechanism utilizing a cellular phone in connection with their plan to bomb the said embassy," he said.

Adan said Mentang was a bomb expert of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which he said was the local contact of the JI, and headed a terrorist cell in Davao.

He said Mubpon was a member of the MILF Elite Group trained in demolitions by the JI.

Mentang told investigators that he assembled the bombs used in the Davao attacks, Adan said.

Mentang also said he was trained by a senior JI leader and bomb maker, an Indonesian identified as Zulkifli, who ordered the bombings in Davao. Zulkifli was arrested in Malaysia late last year.

Adan also charged that an Indonesian JI member, Abdul Jabidi, alias Bedz, had supplied the explosives used in the Davao attacks as well as three other bombings elsewhere in Mindanao between 2002 and 2004.

"This shows that the JI have been involved in the training of some of these MILF members as stated by Mentang. We shall pursue the investigation further to establish other connections," Adan said.

The link between the MILF and the JI comes despite the MILF's vow that it has cut all its ties with terror groups as part of peace talks with the government.

Cutting terror ties

The government and the MILF signed a ceasefire in 2002 to pave the way for the holding of formal peace talks.. But as a condition for the talks to proceed, the MILF swore that it had cut all ties to terror groups.

Despite this, the military has maintained that the MILF still has ties with the terrorist group which has been blamed for the October 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that left over 200 people dead.

Adan said the military has asked the government and MILF peace panels to bring Bedz and other Indonesian nationals who have links with him to justice.

Adan identified these Indonesian nationals as a certain Usman or Rizal, a certain Zacky or Jack, Samrud Al Ormatan or Marwan and Abdul Rai Talanghati or Bigok.

He said Bedz and the other Indonesians are believed to be hiding out in an MILF camp in Upper Idtig, Paglat, Maguindanao.

"Like Bedz, these foreign nationals are equally responsible for the bombings and should answer for the criminal offenses committed against innocent people," Adan said.

With reports from AP, AFP

CPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Private Sector

SHIFT TO WEEKLY INSTEAD OF MONTHLY COMPUTATION OF OIL PRICES

- The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) will propose to the Department of Energy (DOE) the shift to a WEEKLY moving 4 weeks weighted average computation as this will be more reflective of the movement of oil prices in the world market. If the world market prices are on an uptrend, the increase will be weekly and if the prices are on a downtrend, the rollback will, likewise, be felt weekly.
- Under the present method, price increases are done monthly as the average of the current month is compared to the previous month's average. As such, the increase is made effective on the 15th of the following month for the new players and on the 21st for the oil refiners as they have a 30-day inventory.
- We hope that this new method will correct what is happening today where the oil companies are quick to increase when the world oil prices are moving upward but slow in reducing oil prices when world oil prices are on a downtrend.
- We will present the weekly and monthly methods of computation to the DOE, the oil companies, Senate Committee on Trade and Industry Chairman MAR Roxas, and to the public.

INCREASE IN PETROLEUM EXCISE TAX & OIL SMUGGLING

The COPW is against the revenue bill that will increase the excise tax on petroleum products of P2.00 unless the following conditions are met:

- The prices of diesel and gasoline are down to reasonable levels.
- The tax on diesel is substantially lower than gasoline.
- Oil smuggling is addressed, especially the misdeclaration of gasoline as diesel in the light of the big differential in the current excise tax of gasoline of P4.35 and the diesel at P1.63.

PLAN OF ACTION

The COPW has taken the initiative with the BOC Commissioner George Jereos who convened on October 6th a meeting of ALL oil companies, the Coast Guard, and the Navy to address the issue of smuggling.

The COPW proposed the following measures to contain smuggling:

- Shipping lines must give advance information on ALL inbound oil tankers including the consignee name and destination.
- ALL oil companies must submit a list of their oil depots for diesel, gasoline and crude nationwide.
- Oil companies must immediately report suspect oil shipments to the special Task Force on Oil Smuggling under the Bureau of Customs.
- Customs must be vigilant about misdeclarations arising from the present P2.72 differential on the excise tax imposed on gasoline and diesel which are P4.35 and P1.63 per liter respectively. With the proposed additional excise tax the temptation to misdeclare will be greater.

SUPPLY SITUATION AND PRICE STABILITY OF PORK

In support of the request of Senator Manuel Roxas that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry resolve the issue of depopulation of hogs as reported by the National Federation of Hog Farmers, the COPW raised the concern of a possible supply problem at the National Price Coordinating Council.

The depopulation was in reaction to the low farm gate prices which dropped from P75 to P55 while the wet market price remained at P120.

The COPW initiative led to the holding of a conference in Malacañang chaired by Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and attended by the livestock growers and agricultural producers. The group assured the public of enough supply of pork for the holidays and that the price would stabilize at P135 which is lower than the P150 recorded last year due to tight supply.

However, DA Secretary Yap must meet with the National Federation of Hog Farmers to analyze the cost of the distribution chain to keep prices in check since hog raisers do not keep frozen inventory. If necessary, the Department of Agriculture should impose a ceiling on the retail price of pork during the holiday season.

CHICKEN SITUATIONER

At the National Price Coordinating Council, DA Secretary Yap assured the members that there is enough supply of chicken to meet the demand up to the holiday season. We were assured by the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators (PABI) and the Union of Broiler Raisers Association (UBRA), which aggregately supply 90% of dressed chicken in the country, that they can cover the demand as they have 6.5 million kilos of frozen inventory on top of the 5.7 million kilos allowed to be imported under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) from October up to December 2004.

COPW estimates that given this excess supply, chicken, which is currently being sold at P80 to P90 per kilo, will go up to P100 to P110 from mid-November to December.

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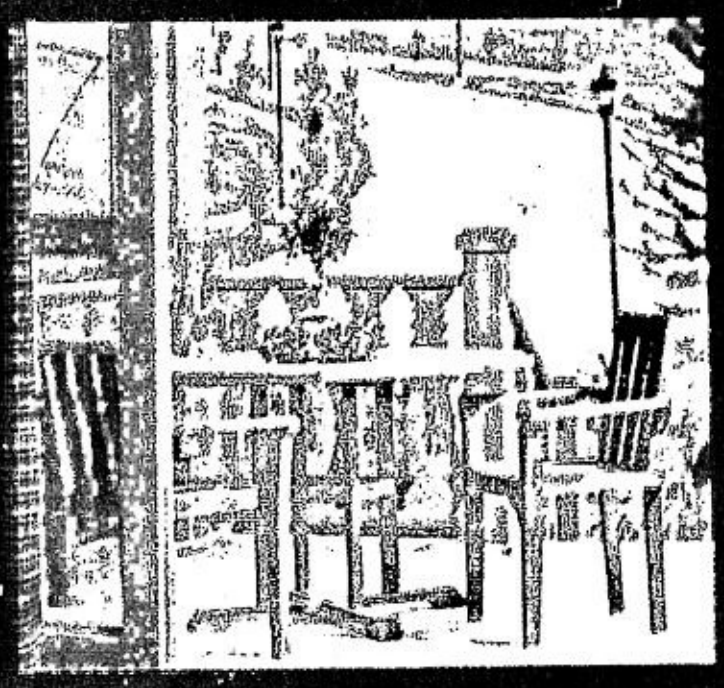

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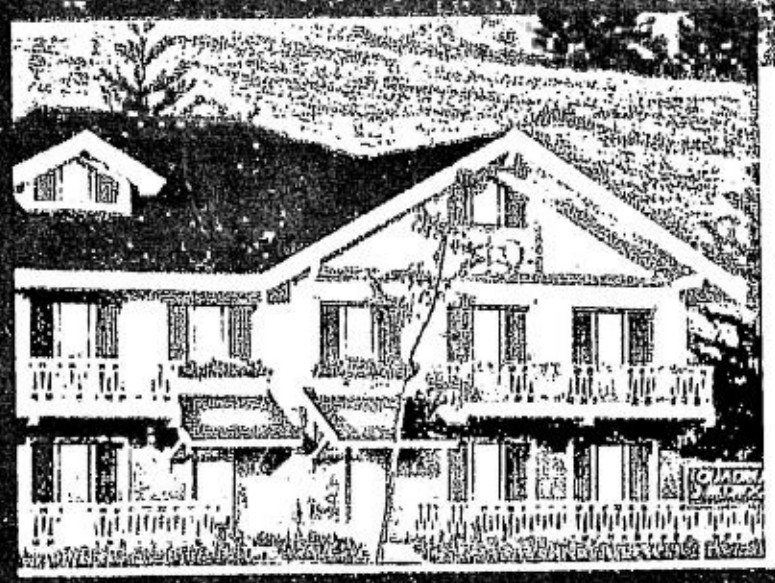

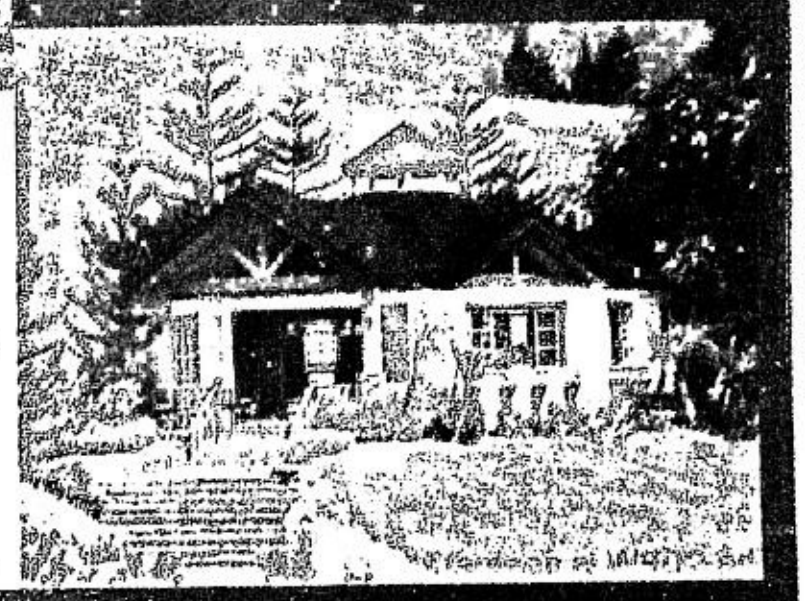

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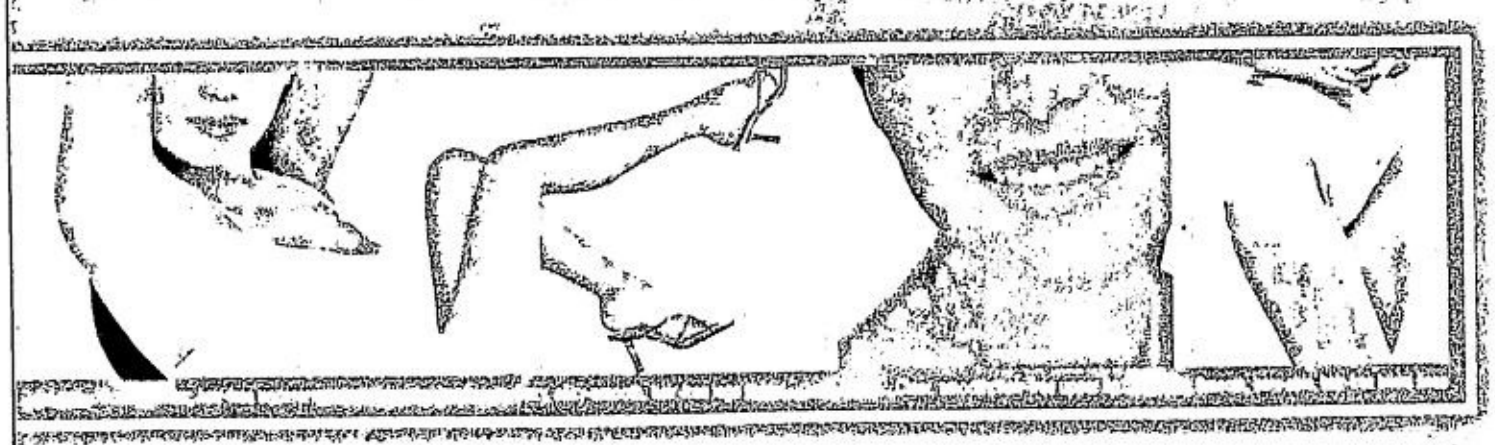

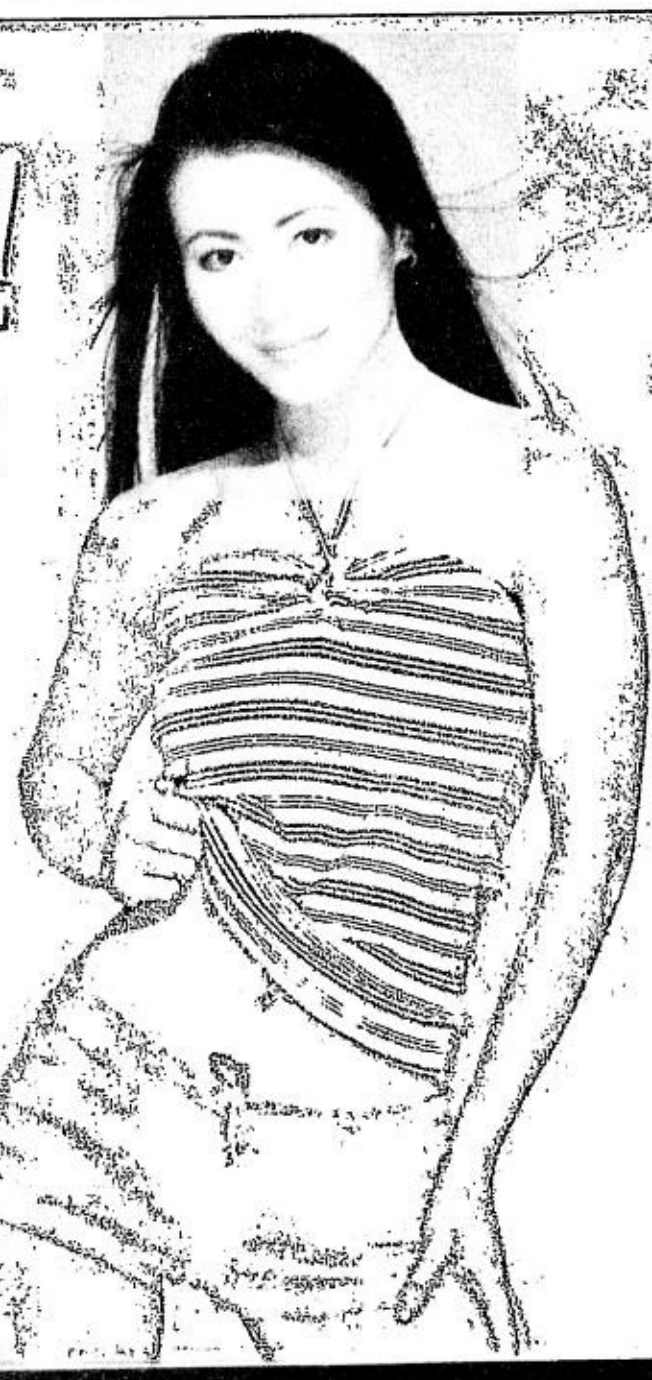

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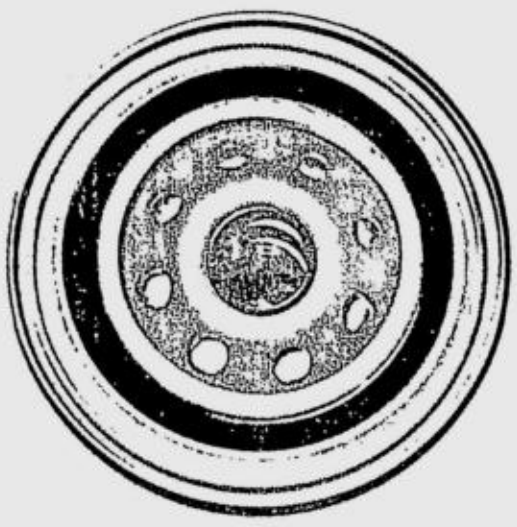

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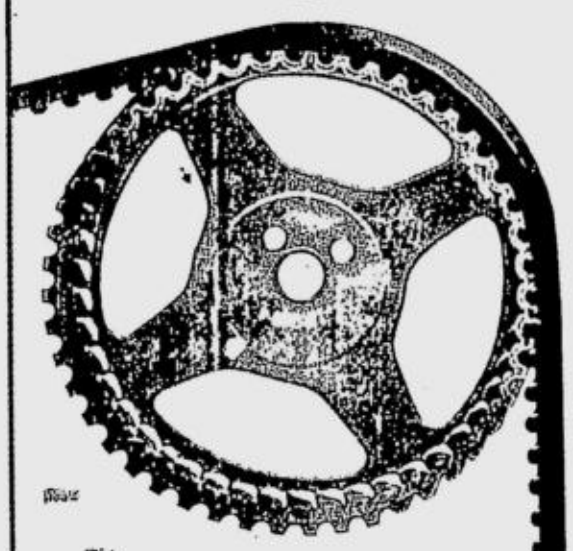

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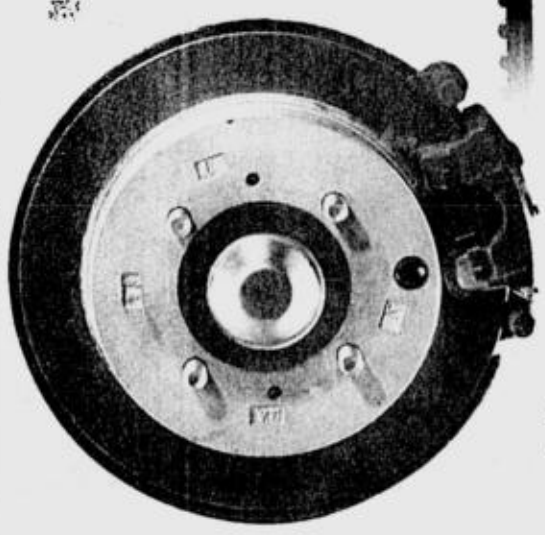

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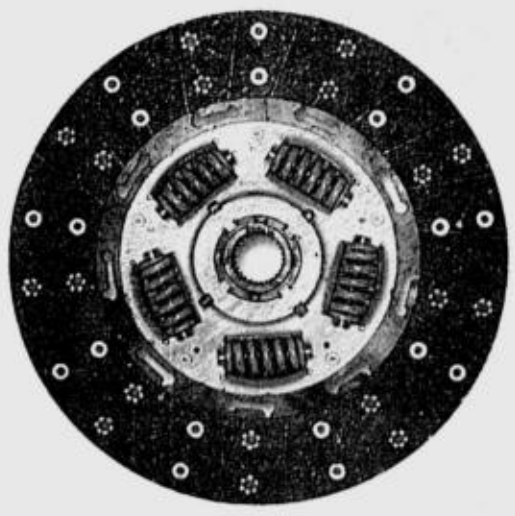

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REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ADVISER

Miriam hubby joins Cabinet

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday swore into office Narciso "Jun" Santiago Jr. as presidential adviser on revenue enhancement (Pare).

Santiago, who will hold Cabinet rank, is the husband of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Pare is a new position created under the Office of the President to "help the government find ways and means to ease the current fiscal crisis."

Ms Arroyo had ordered the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs to enhance revenue collection and plug the leaks in their systems. She had also asked Congress to pass eight revenue measures to raise P200 billion to address the budget deficit.

Santiago's office said he would bring to the position a wealth of experience "gained from more than 20 years of public service during which he specialized in community relations and customs law."

Santiago served as an undersecretary in the Department of Interior and Local Government in 1999-2001 during the Estrada administration. As such, he was involved in policy development, the resolution of local problems and the implementation of strategies to combat illegal drugs and rehabilitate drug users.

His wife, Senator Santiago, an avid Estrada supporter, switched allegiance before the May 2004 election where she ran under Ms Arroyo's K-4 senatorial slate.

Jun Santiago, a law graduate of the University of the Philippines, also served in the Bureau of Customs from 1975 to 1991.

At the BOC, he rose through the ranks to become special assistant to the commissioner and chief of the pier and investigation division. During his stint, he received the Commissioner's Commendation four times for outstanding performance in law enforcement.

Also sworn into office by President Arroyo at Malacañang's Ceremonial Hall were 25 other appointees—former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco as president of the Philippine Public Safety College; preacher Roger Arienda as deputy secretary general of the Ad Hoc Council on Values Formation;

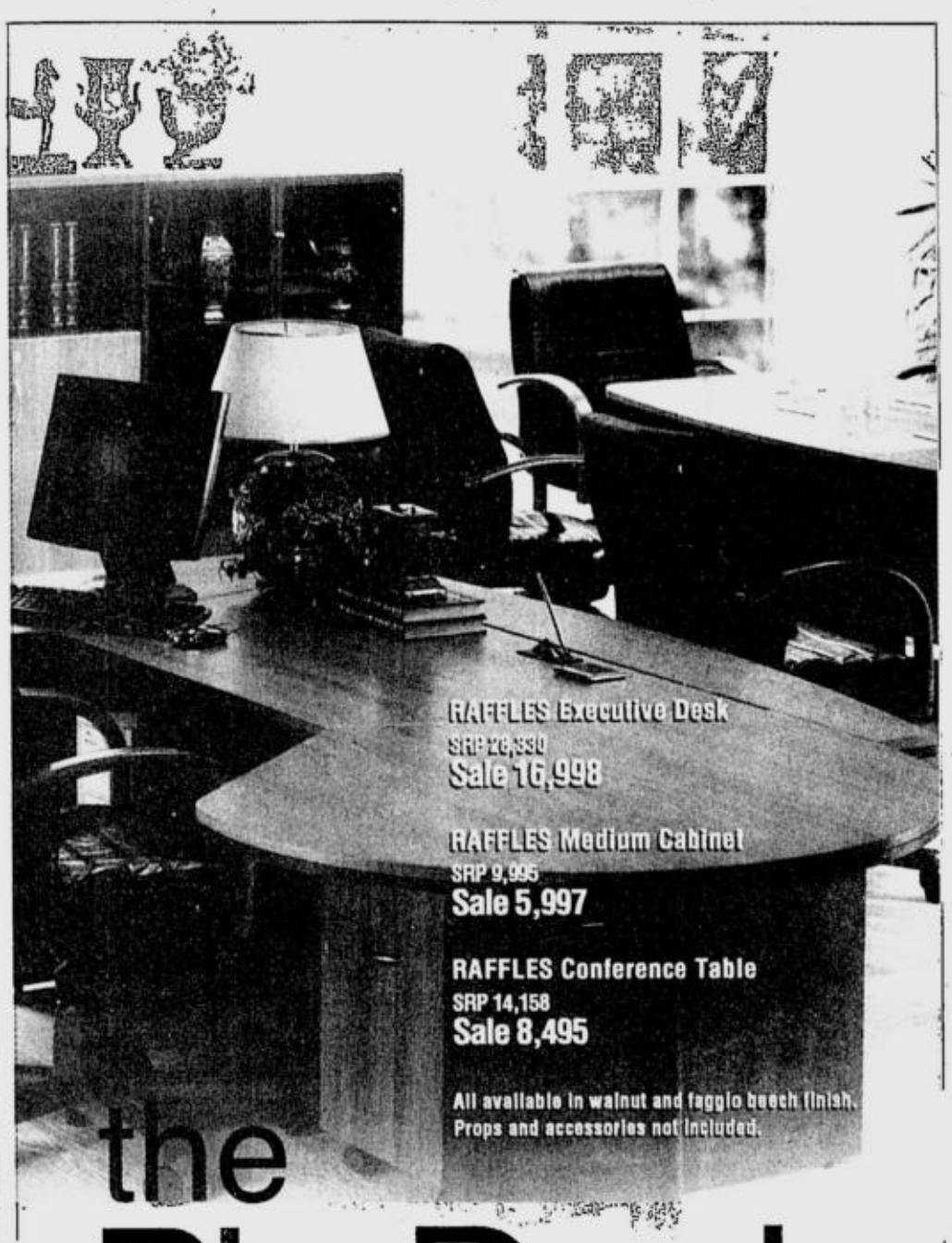
Waldo Flores and Joaquin Lagonera as senior deputy executive secretaries; Jose Tale, Manuel Gaite, Susana Vargas and Richard Ferrer as deputy executive secretaries;

Manuel Domingo as presidential adviser in the Office of the President; Gamaliel Cordoba, undersecretary in the OP;

Ferdinand Mahusay, presidential adviser for Region IX; Raymundo Roquero, executive director of political coalition affairs; Myrna Yao, chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women; George Jereos, commissioner of customs; Roberto Geotina, deputy customs commissioner;

Gregorio Tan Jr., National Food Authority administrator; Alipio Fernandez Jr., immigration commissioner; Erlinda Uy, Court of Tax Appeals associate justice; Ricardo Ochia, technical assistant for the Mindanao Economic Development Council, and Teodorico Haresco Jr., director of Philippine National Oil Co.

Philippine National .Police Director General Edgar Aglipay, Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, Police Directors Oscar Calderon, Arturo Lomibao and Vidal Querol were also sworn into office.



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E-SPACE Executive Table with Pedestal in mahogany or walnut finish	15,850	**12,680**	20%
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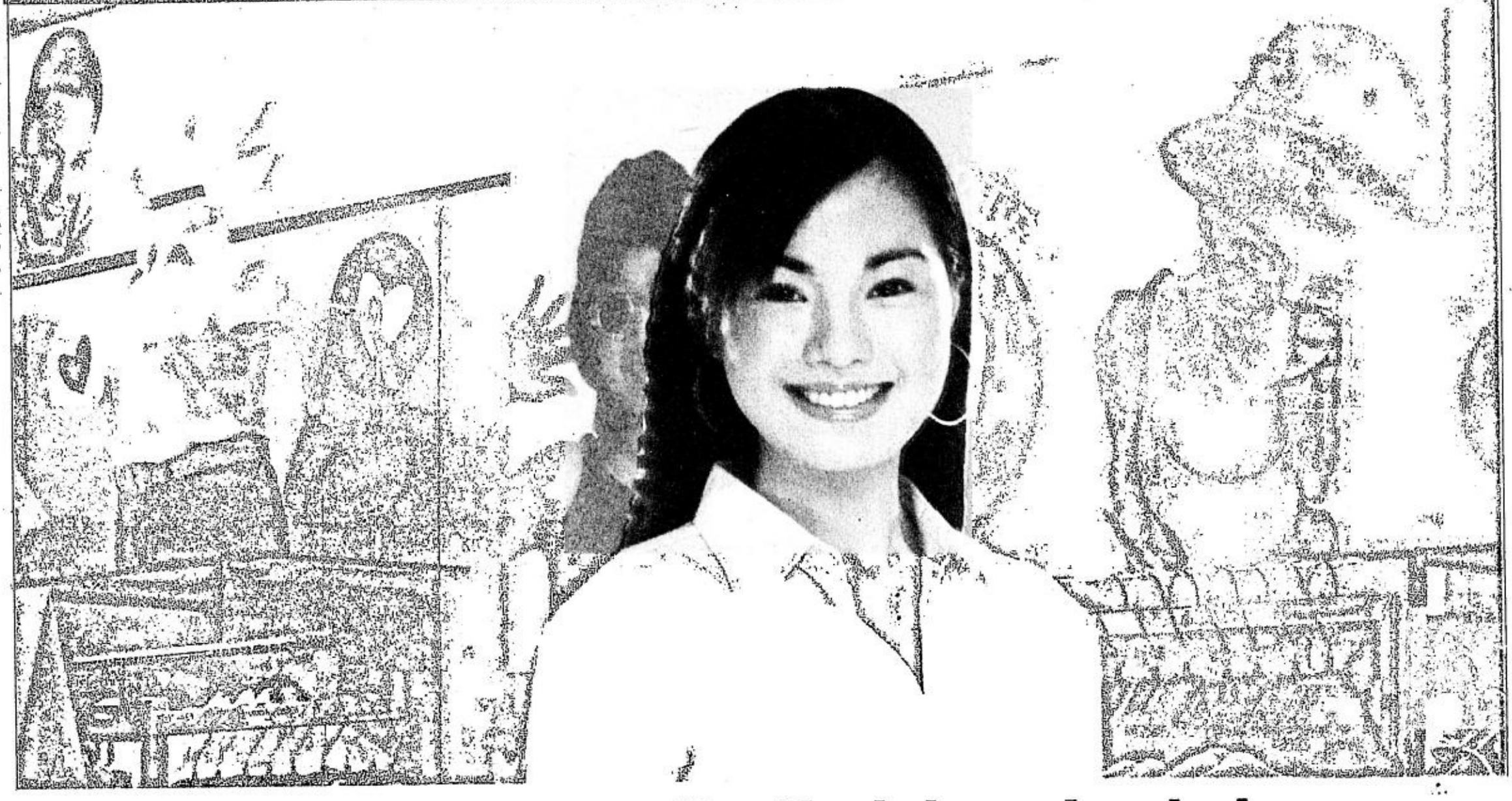

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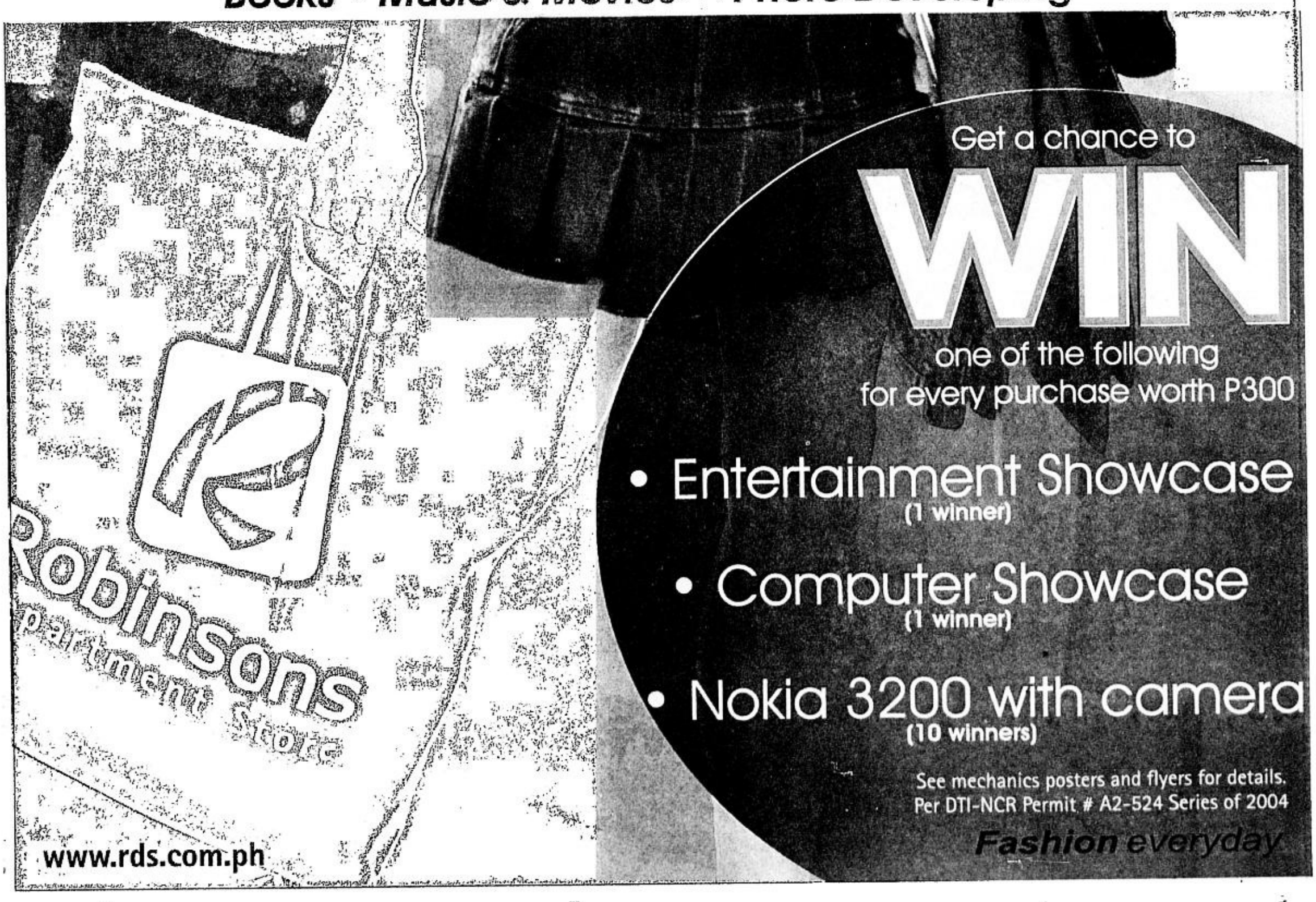

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Alexander, who is in Manila on a three-day visit, stressed the importance of bilateral, regional and international cooperation to offset the threat posed by "terrorists and fanatics bent on undermining the civilized world."

"In Europe and in Asia, in our own countries, we have direct experience of the horror of terrorism. A huge collective effort is now required to defeat this scourge. So I welcome the opportunity to work with the Philippine government on countering the terrorist offensive," he said.

Since it strongly supports the Philippines' campaign to root out terrorism, Britain will provide over $1 million in counter-terrorism aid, said Alexander, the first British minister to visit Manila after Ms Arroyo was elected President in May.

"The UK and the Philippines enjoy a warm relationship. We share a similar outlook on so many issues. The fight against terrorism is one such issue, where the UK and Philippine governments are working closely together to combat this international scourge," he said in a statement released by the British Embassy.

Alexander also said that while economic relations between Britain and the Philippines was healthy, it could be strengthened further.

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SPRATLYS OIL HUNT

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His comments came a day after China's foreign ministry expressed its "grave concern and strong dissatisfaction" at the initiative and reiterated its "indisputable sovereignty" over the Spratly Islands.

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Last month Vietnam protested an agreement between the Philippines and China to explore for oil and gas there. *AFP*

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Suspected drug lord may escape gallows

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Wednesday raised the possibility that suspected drug lord Calvin Tan would be spared from the death penalty so that Hong Kong would agree to his extradition.

Gonzalez said Hong Kong authorities had asked the Department of Justice if Tan, who is believed to be the financier of the Cebu drug labs where P1.3-billion worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) was found last month, would be executed if he were returned to the Philippines.

Tan was arrested in Hong Kong on Oct. 1 carrying $820,000 in cash and small amounts of shabu and cocaine.

"We cannot guarantee (that he would not be executed) but we told them that the Court of Appeals would automatically review his case and the President has the power to commute death sentences," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said Hong Kong officials had told him they were willing to transfer Tan "smoothly" to Philippine authorities through the extradition process.

"When he is surrendered, I myself will go to Hong Kong or have the immigration commissioner go there," Gonzalez said.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs had canceled Tan's Philippine passport.

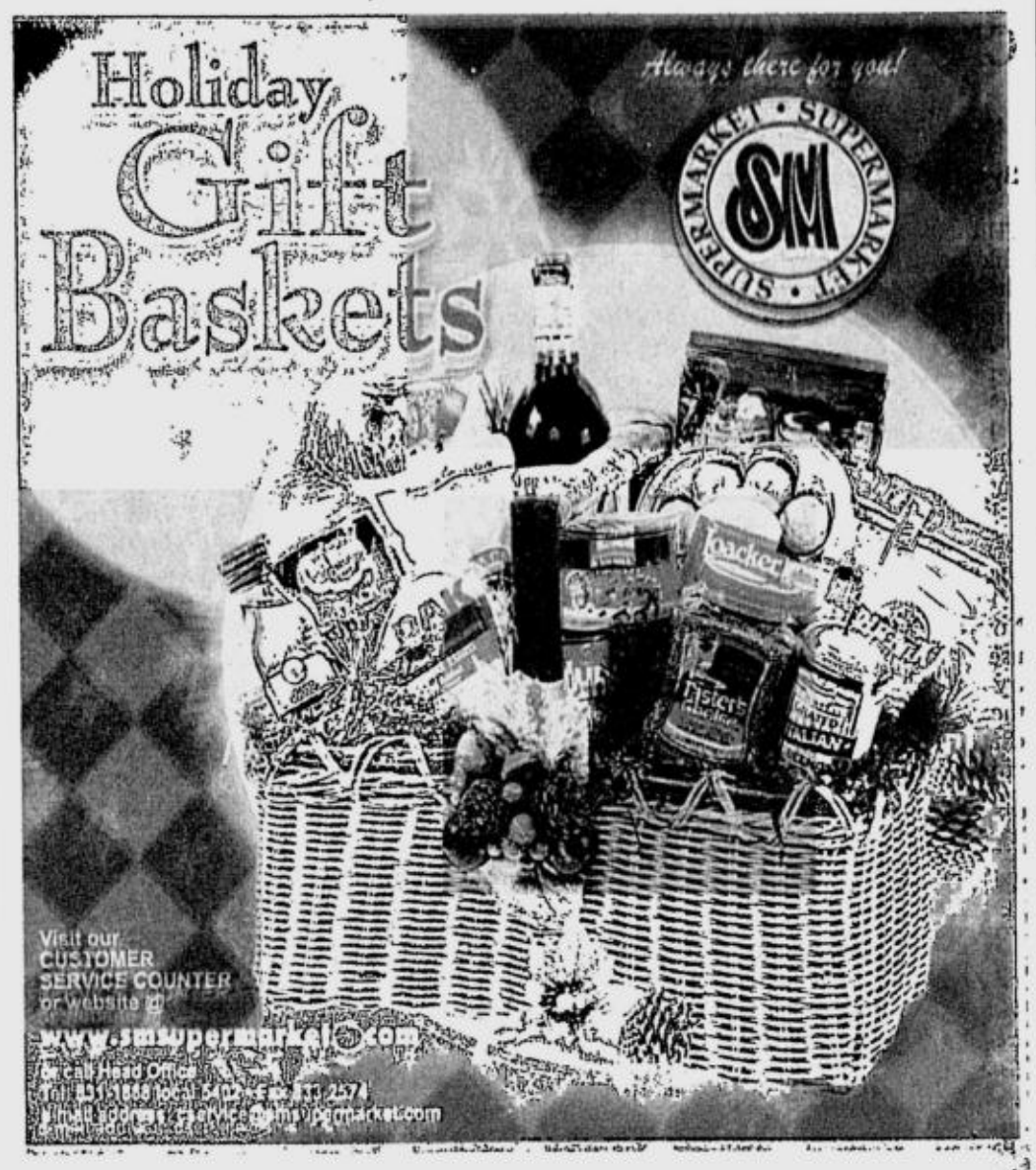
He said he had also instructed Philippine consular officials in Hong Kong, through the DFA, to oppose Tan's reported plan to seek bail.

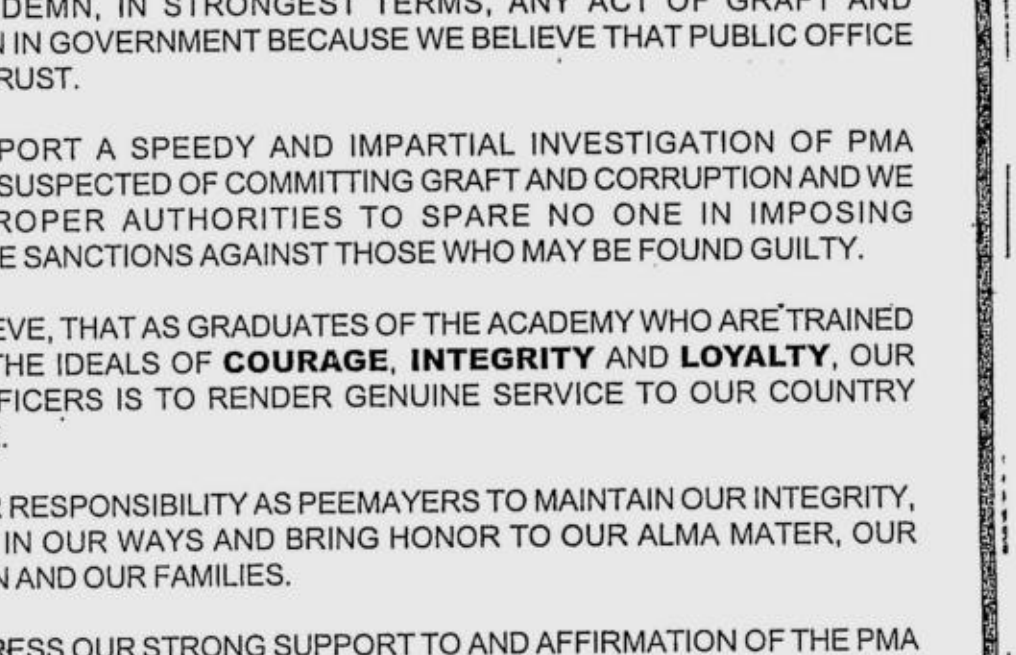
"We do not want that to happen," Gonzalez said.

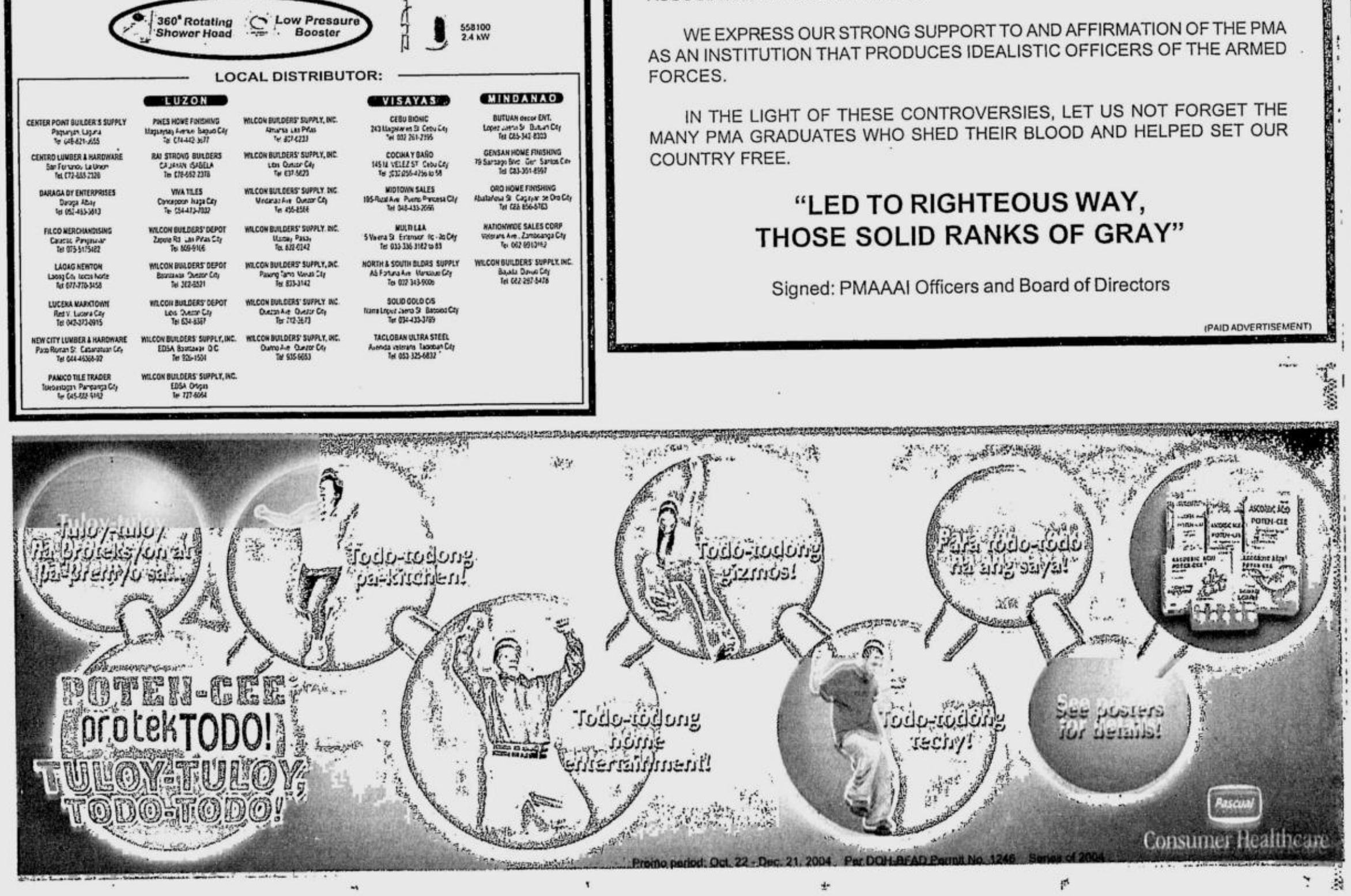
He said the DOJ had received reports Tan was willing to surrender his Philippine passport if he were allowed to post bail.

"But his passport has already been canceled. He's now an undocumented alien in Hong Kong," Gonzalez said.

Tan, 29, appeared headed for Macau when he was arrested by Hong Kong customs officers. Gonzalez said he had also asked Macau officials for assistance since Tan allegedly owns properties in the former Portuguese colony.







Foes blame GMA for corruption rating

SENATORS yesterday agreed with the assessment made by the London-based Transparency International which ranked the Philippines in 11th place in its global corruption index and blamed the Arroyo administration's lack of political will to stop the rampant corruption in government.

Administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the corruption report was a "national shame" and exhorted all Filipinos to work together to bring the country back to becoming "a little more trustworthy, a little more truthful and a little more honest."

The TI Corruption Perception Index report, released the other day, showed the Philippines holding on to its 11th ranking—which it has held along with five other countries for the past two years— as the most corrupt nation in a field of 146.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the rating might be correct "considering the magnitude of the leakages in the revenue side, on the contingent liability side, and so on and so forth."

But he said the report should also have included the private sector as the corruption did not just involve government.

Opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña said the government had no political will to stop corruption, and had not made any sincere effort to enhance the image of the country in the world.

He joked that the Philippines should rejoice because in two years' time, "we could be No. 1."

'No serious effort'

"This has been going on for a long time and there has been no serious effort to improve our status... We are 95 percent Christian. I think it is a reflection of the values that we have as a people that we keep on allowing corrupt officials to get away with it," said Osmeña.

At the House of Representatives, administration congressmen rejected the Transparency International's assessment, saying it was based on "serious misperception and mis-impressions" and not on "hard data."

Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) and Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salappudin said in a statement that the Arroyo administration had made serious efforts in stamping out government corruption.

Cagas, vice chair of the House committee on good government, said the TI had disregarded such anticorruption efforts as the creation of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, the Lifestyle Check Coalition, and the continuing investigation and prosecution of people involved in corruption, smuggling and tax evasion.

Salappudin cited as a major anti-corruption initiative the enactment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, aimed at detecting "dirty money" and minimizing corruption in the country's banking system. *Michael Lim Ubac*

How much does P130M weigh?

By Armand N. Nocum

HOW MUCH does P130 million in paper bills weigh? Can one man carry it alone?

These were questions former Sen. Ramon Revilla had tried to answer during the Senate impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada four years ago.

Now with the extradition of Estrada crony Charlie "Atong" Ang from the United States, the lead lawyer of the Estrada defense team believes it is high time the question was answered.

In a telephone interview, former Sen. Rene Saguisag said that with Ang's return, the defense panel may finally get the chance to disprove the claim of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that he hand-carried P130 million in cash to Estrada on Aug. 31, 1998.

"Personally, I look forward to a reenactment of that (Singson's) story," Saguisag told the INQUIRER.

Singson, Estrada's erstwhile close friend, said the money had been demanded by the former President from the tobacco excise taxes of Ilocos Sur.

He said the money was withdrawn from the Land Bank of the Philippines by persons associated with Ang.

Singson said he brought the money in paper bags to Estrada's house on Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan.

SINGSON

ANG

Of the total, Estrada reportedly got P70 million, while his wife Loi, son Jinggoy and Ang himself got P20 million, P15 million and P25 million, respectively.

But Saguisag doubted Singson could carry that much money by himself.

"I don't know, but people I've talked to say that that much money is too heavy. It would not be possible to carry the way Chavit related it," he said. "A reenactment will blow up in the face of the prosecution."

The US District Court of Nevada recently ordered Ang's extradition to the Philippines after finding "probable cause" of his involvement in the crime of plunder along with Estrada, Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio.

US Judge Lawrence R. Leavitt ruled on Oct. 14 that Singson's testimony in the ongoing plunder trial of Estrada was "reliable and admissible in extradition hearings as statements against penal interest."

Told about Saguisag's plan to reenact his delivery of the money to Estrada, Singson said it showed that Estrada's lawyers were desperate and were willing to "perform every imaginable media stunt" to discredit him. Singson is the prosecution's star witness.

Missing coed found dead in funeral home

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS the family had feared, the long wait ended in tragedy.

Relatives of Jaimarie Reyes on Wednesday night found her body at a funeral parlor in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, more than a week after the 22-year-old Philippine Women's University student went missing.

Reyes' body had actually been at the San Ramon funeral parlor since Oct. 10, the day she was reported missing.

Police said the body was found that morning near the shoulder of the South Luzon Tollways in Sta. Rosa but nobody was to know that it was the missing student.

Reyes suffered six gunshot wounds, said Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera, the Laguna provincial police chief.

Last Tuesday, police arrested seven people, including a 21-year-old woman, who were caught dismantling the victim's black Honda Civic sedan (UUK 808) at a house in Barangay Mayapa in Padre Garcia town, Batangas.

Charged with car theft were Gilbert Ronquillo, 24, and his uncle Ruben Seyritan, 36, Bienvenido Nicdao Jr., 37, Aldrin Bagos, 23, Jansen Malitic, 20, Pedro Pablo Jr., 41, and Maria Cecilia Mercado.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla, the Calabarzon police director, yesterday ordered that the charge be changed to murder, following the discovery of the victim's body.

Corvera said forensic experts were still checking for any signs of sexual abuse.

Reyes left her house in San Pablo City, driving her black Civic, at about 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 9. She was supposed to have been on her way to the dormitory in Malate, Manila, where she was staying.

Corvera said Reyes had been seen leaving a bar in the early morning of Oct. 10. She was never seen again.

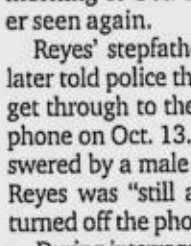
Reyes' stepfather Eligio Bathan later told police that he was able to get through to the victim's cellular phone on Oct. 13. The call was answered by a male voice which said Reyes was "still asleep" and then turned off the phone, Bathan said.

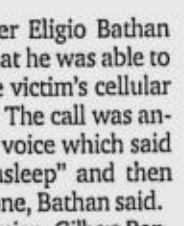
During interrogation, Gilbert Ronquillo claimed that three people—a certain Michael, Danilo and an unidentified male—checked in at his mother's Windyhills Resort in Calamba City at about 7 a.m. on Oct. 11.

Ronquillo claimed that the three sought his help to conceal the car that they were driving, saying they wanted to declare it missing so they could claim against its insurance.

Ronquillo said he offered to take the car to his uncle Ruben Seyritan's place in Padre Garcia. It was here that Ronquillo, Seritan and the five other suspects were arrested by the Batangas police.

Italy to host UN culture program





AMBASSADOR and Ms Colesanti

THE UNITED Nations cultural program of the All-Nations Women's Group will be hosted by Italian Ambassador and Mrs. Umberto Colesanti at their residence at 1237 Acacia Road, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, on Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. Theme of the program is "ANWG Blazing Trail of Friendship to the Nations."

Mrs. Colesanti will give the welcome remarks while the ambassador will deliver the keynote address. They will be introduced by Merceditas Posadas, ANWG president, and Villa Granada de Guia, cultural program chair, respectively.

The program will feature a video presentation by the Italian Embassy and cultural numbers like an Italian song by Minister Carbalho of the Brazilian Embassy, a violin piece by Ely Bautista accompanied by Pedro Espedido, Indonesian dance numbers and a Spanish flamenco dance by Cecile de Joya.

DA Secretary Yap leads signing rite for first 3 rural infrastructure projects

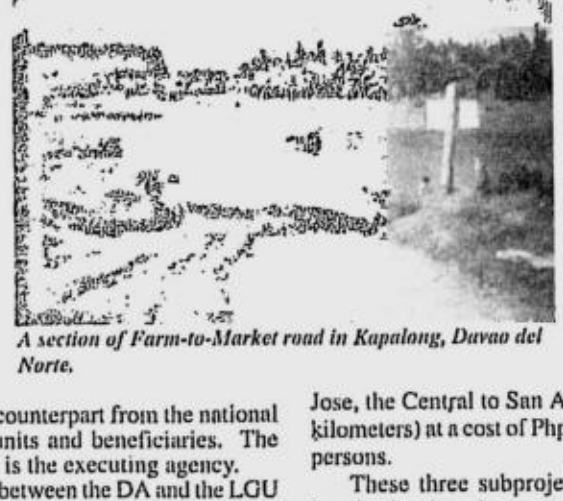
Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap leads today the signing ceremony for the first three subprojects under the Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector (InfRES) Project at the Tahanan ng Pangulo ng Lalawigan in Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

The ceremony will be attended by representatives of the national government, regional offices of involved departments, congressmen and the mayors of the first three town beneficiaries namely: Mayor Dominador P. Cruda of Kapalong, Davao del Norte, Mayor Romulo Festin of San Jose, Mindoro Occidental and Mayor Roberto M. Lagumbay of Hinunangan, Southern Leyte.

The InfRES Project is a seven-year sector project funded partly thru a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with counterpart from the national government, local government units and beneficiaries. The Department of Agriculture (DA) is the executing agency.

The signing of the agreement between the DA and the LGU formalizes the financing for the subprojects, enabling the LGUs as the implementing agencies to start the bidding for the civil works. This will provide new and improved farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems and rural water supplies in areas where there is high agriculture potential.

Before the signing, Mayor Cruda will outline the subproject in his town – the rehabilitation of the Semong-Florida Mabuhay-New Loon and Mabanto-Florida farm-to-market road covering 15.76 kilometers. The projects will benefit some 19,663 persons and cost Php 30.620 million with the national government providing Php19.083 million of the total cost.



A section of Farm-to-Market road in Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

Mayor Lagumbay, on the other hand, will give a briefing on the upgrading of the Badiangon-Manlico farm-to-market road with a budget of Php17.214 million. The road covering 12.96 kilometers will benefit some 6,255 persons.

For the municipality of San Jose, the Central to San Agustin FMR will be upgraded (7.37 kilometers) at a cost of Php 14.84 million and benefiting 13,064 persons.

These three subprojects represent the first of at least a hundred subprojects to be funded by the Department of Agriculture through the InfRES project in collaboration with the LGUs.

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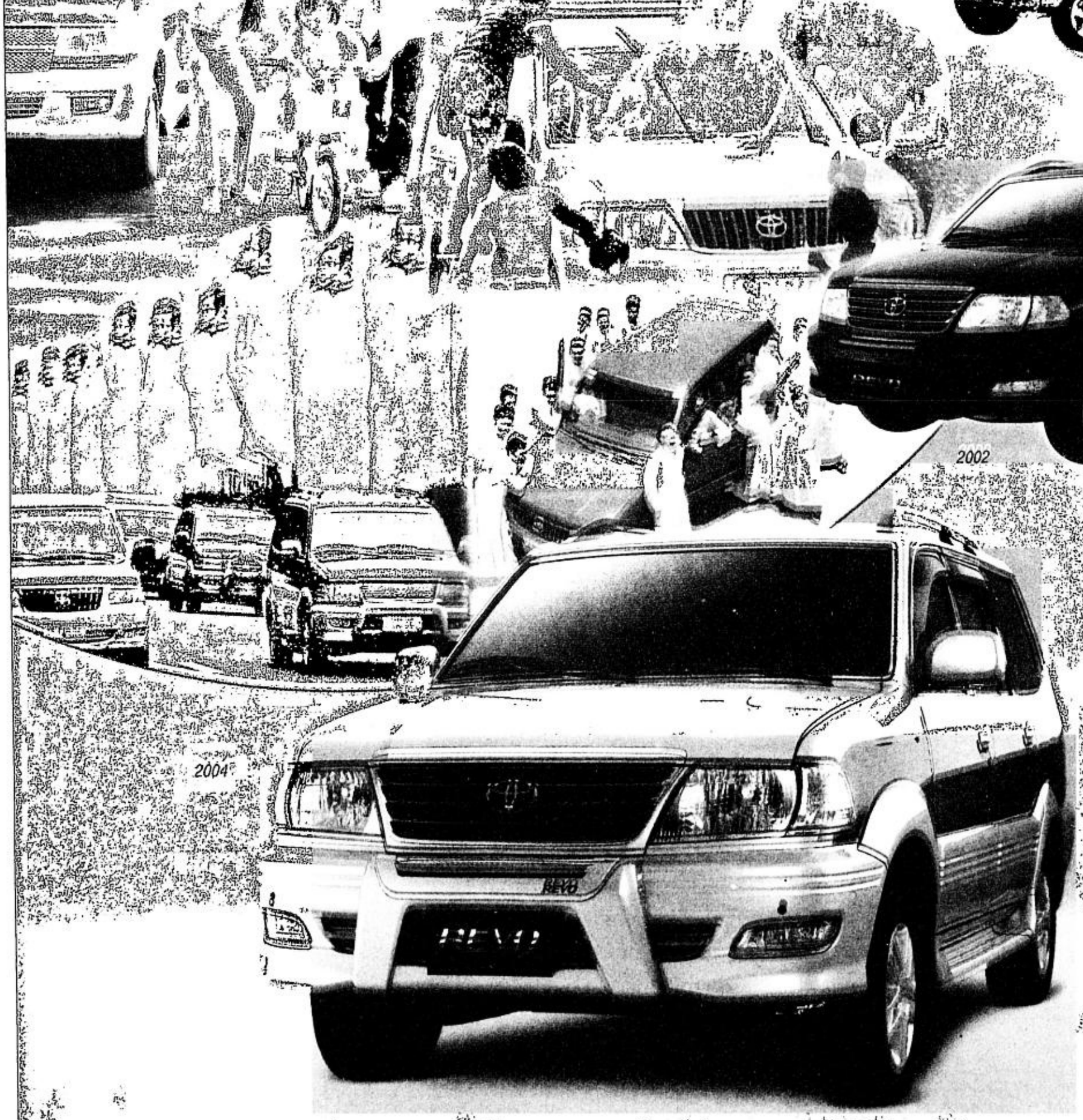
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CORRUPTION PROBE

Police generals get ultimatum on SALs

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE generals and colonels were yesterday ordered to submit within a week their statement of assets and liabilities (SALs) for the last five years in an ultimatum issued by Philippine National Police Chief Director General Edgar Aglipay.

Aglipay issued the order after top police officers ignored two previous directives to submit their SALs from Director Avelino Razon Jr. for Metro Manila officers and Insp. Gen. Alexis Canonizado, the PNP's internal ombudsman.

"I'm ordering all generals down to the senior superintendents to submit their SALs within a week," Aglipay said as he made the announcement during a command conference at Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna yesterday.

In the absence of these documents, Canonizado's Internal Affairs Service (IAS) cannot take concrete action on persistent reports that the large-scale corruption that has focused the public's attention on the Armed Forces is also prevalent in the PNP.

Even before a PNP corruption probe could begin, however, Canonizado this week outlined a host of problems, mostly involving funding, hampering any investigation.

With only an annual budget of P9 million, he said it was very difficult for the 800-man IAS to conduct a lifestyle check program. He said his office at Camp Crame did not even have a computer.

Aglipay yesterday said Canonizado could request for additional funds from the Department of Budget and Management or seek financial help from the PNP, the very institution it is trying to investigate for corruption.

The PNP chief himself seemed convinced that the 115,000-strong PNP was free of any financial irregularities.

Asked if fund "conversion," an acknowledged source of corruption at the AFP, was also practiced at the PNP, he replied: "As far as I know, there's none."

He said it was highly unlikely as the allocations for maintenance, operating and other expenses—which take up a third of the PNP budget—were being spent "down to the last centavo."

For instance, he said the receipt of gas allowance has to be certified by governors in the case of provincial units, and mayors for municipal units. The practice ensures that the allowance goes straight to the field units, he said.

At yesterday's command conference, Senior Supt. Emelito Sarmiento, the comptroller for the Mimaropa region, assured Aglipay that his regional office has strictly followed his order to distribute 85 percent of the budget among field units and keep the remainder for administrative expenses.

Tax amnesty even for vice lords

By Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN vice lords are qualified for amnesty under the proposed tax amnesty bill.

This was admitted by officials of the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue at a hearing yesterday by the Senate ways and means committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto.

Under questioning by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan and BIR Deputy Commissioner Jose Bunag could only nod their heads in agreement when asked if gambling, prostitution and drug lords could seek tax amnesty from the government.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III then explained to the committee that vice lords could not be prevented from applying for a tax amnesty "because they have not been proven to be vice lords."

"You cannot refuse them. You have to prove first. Thy should be able to avail," said Osmeña.

He, however, explained that the vice lords who had availed of the tax amnesty could not escape criminal liability.

"Later on, two or three years from now, (should) the Ombudsman or judge says he is a 'jueteng' lord, so all the profits he made are ill-gotten wealth (and thus) subject to confiscation, penalties," he said.

MESSAGES

The Philippine Ports Authority acknowledges the role of the Philippine Chamber of Arrastre and Stevedoring Operators or PCASO in providing an enlightened national organization for cargo handling operators and port workers.

In many occasions, PCASO as an organization has put its name on the line as it focuses on: improving the efficiency, safety, productivity and effective performance of cargo handling operations; improving the standard of living of port workers; and, protecting the interests of cargo handling operators and port workers to achieve and maintain industrial peace and harmony at the waterfront.

As cargo handling activities at our ports yield to the vagaries of both local and global economic climate; as markets and competition get tighter; and as investments in cutting edge cargo handling equipment becomes prohibitive, the challenge is for us to think of and consider fresh ideas and approaches in order that the sector can remain competitive.

Parallel to this, we should always bear in mind that at the core of cargo handling operations are our port workers who move around the various mixes of cargoes in our ports. From a social perspective, a guaranteed, equitable and secure tenure for our port workers will spell a big difference in terms of healthy productivity levels at our ports, consequently promoting a stable business climate. This environment we need to establish and maintain against the backdrop of a dramatic revolution in cargo handling operations.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the new set of officers and members with the hope that they will maintain the momentum of their predecessors as PCASO continues to hurdle the challenges facing the industry and bring about reforms necessary to be carried out.

(Sgd.)ATTY. OSCAR M. SEVILLA
General Manager
Philippine Ports Authority

I would like to extend my warmest felicitations and sincere gratitude to all PCASO members who have just expressed their trust and confidence in the newly elected officers and Board of Governors.

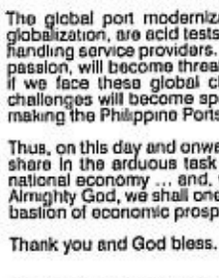
But the task does not end in our election! Ahead, there is a Herculean challenge to each and everyone of us in the organization to sustain the vigor that each of us unselfishly displayed in advocating for an effective port system which has made us, cargo handlers, a true partner of the government in the development of the waterfront and the Philippine Economy in general. While we envision a stronger organization that will protect the interests of our members, we are also cognizant of the fact that we are called for a higher cause of providing security of tenure and welfare of the port workers, and, at the same time becoming a prime mover of port trade.

The global port modernization, as well as the trade and technology globalization, are acid tests of our responsiveness and maturity as cargo handling service providers. These tests, if not responded with a visionary passion, will become threats to our continued existence in the port. But if we face these global challenges with sincere determination, these challenges will become sparkplugs to carry on our ultimate missions of making the Philippine Ports - globally competitive.

Thus, on this day and onward, I exhort all members of PCASO to do your share in the arduous task of each and every Filipino in rebuilding our national economy ... and, with the enlightenment and strength from our Almighty God, we shall one day wake up to find the Philippine Ports ... a bastion of economic prosperity.

Thank you and God bless.

(Sgd.)MR. BENJAMIN C. AKOL
Chairman
PCASO



First and foremost, I would like to congratulate all the newly elected officers and Board of Governors of PCASO. You have been given a fresh mandate to lead the general membership in the chamber's endeavors as it impacts on the cargo handling industry. Our induction today signals the beginning of our responsibility to reinvigorate PCASO.

Being an umbrella organization of the cargo handlers in the different ports of the country, PCASO bears the challenge to improve the port services in the country. This challenge to our organization is actually a clarion call for each and everyone of us to transform our base ports and sub-ports into a globally competitive ports. This task is menial. It involves dedication, passion and determination to make use of our limited resources in improving port efficiency.

I therefore enjoin everyone to take active involvement in any PCASO activity, for it to achieve its primordial objective or providing, safe, efficient and effective service in the different ports of the country.

More power to PCASO!

(Sgd.)ENGR. ALBERT H. SUANSING
Vice-Chairman
PCASO

PCASO
PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING OPERATORS

cordially invites you to its

INDUCTION
OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS and BOARD OF GOVERNORS

October 22, 2004 · 2:00 PM
Century Park Hotel

PROGRAMME

Invocation	**Mr. Ferdie Inacay** Board of Governor
Pambansang Awit	**Ms. Teresa Alegado** Auditor, PCASO
Welcome Address	**Engr. Albert Suansing** Vice-Chairman Elect
Charging of Officers	**Hon. Ben Cecilio** AGM Operations, PPA
Induction of Officers	**Hon. Oscar Sevilla** General Manager, PPA
Acceptance Speech	**Mr. Benjamin C. Akol** Chairman, PCASO
Introduction of Guest Speaker	**Atty. Tomas A. Riveral** Secretary General, PCASO
Message	**Hon. Oscar Sevilla** General Manager, PPA
Giving of Token of Appreciation	**Mr. Benjamin C. Akol** Chairman, PCASO

Atty. Annabel G. Pulvera
Emcee

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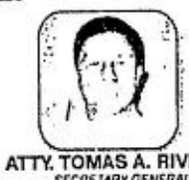
MR. BENJAMIN C. AKOL
CHAIRMAN
ORIENTAL PORT & ALLIED SERVICES CORP
PORT OF CEBU

ENGR. ALBERT H. SUANSING
VICE-CHAIRMAN
NORTH STAR DEVELOPMENT CORP
PORT OF MANILA



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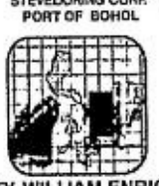

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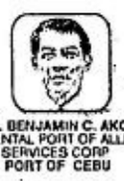
LEGAL ADVISER

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



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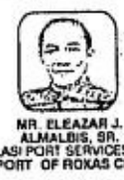
ORIENTAL PORT OF ALLIED SERVICES CORP
PORT OF CEBU



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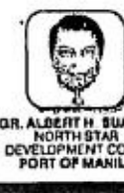

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

CIA oversaw abuse at Abu Ghraib, court told

BAGHDAD—Witnesses in the trial of a US soldier charged with abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib have told the court that the CIA sometimes directed abuse and orders were received from military command to toughen interrogations.

The evidence, from an officer and a chief warrant officer who served at the jail, is among the strongest so far in the Abu Ghraib trials pointing to more senior involvement in the abuse and direct orders from above to "soften up" detainees.

Previously, the Pentagon has claimed that the sexual and physical abuse that took place at the prison was the work of a few "bad apples" acting on their own initiative.

Testifying in the court martial of S/Sgt. Ivan Frederick, who is charged with five accounts of abusing prisoners, Capt. Donald Reese, a military police commander at Abu Ghraib, said the CIA was involved in abusing detainees.

He said US civilian "OGA" officials—an acronym meaning Other Government Agency reserved for the CIA—interrogated Iraqi inmates at night, when supervision at the prison was low.

One inmate, who CIA interrogators were depriving of sleep, was suffering from "panic attacks," he said.

"They (CIA) came in at any time of day. They came in through the back door and put (prisoners) in one of the cells. We were told by OGA that they'd be back for them again later," Reese said via video from the United States on Wednesday.

Frederick's trial, which began on Wednesday at a camp on the outskirts of Baghdad, is expected to conclude later on Thursday.

He has pleaded guilty to the five charges against him, although he has denied some of the details.

Reese, the commander of the 372nd Military Police Company, said there were so many types of interrogators on the site it became difficult to keep track. He mentioned staff from the CIA, the FBI, military intelligence and military police.

"It was very confusing," he said. "Sometimes they wore civilian clothes, sometime military uniforms. And military intelligence had their name tags removed sometimes."

He said he had seen naked detainees being held at the prison shortly after arriving in October and wondered what on earth was going on. "Did you ask about the nudity?" Frederick's lawyer Gary Myers asked Reese in court.

"I was told it was the actions of the military intelligence community and it was an accepted practice," Reese replied.

Taking the stand after Reese, Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Kramer, a military intelligence soldier, said he had received an email in August, before much of the abuse is believed to have occurred, demanding that interrogations be "toughened up."

"We were told we weren't getting the intelligence they expected. Therefore we must not be conducting enough interrogations to get the intelligence," Kramer told the court.

Kramer said the email, read out in court and admitted as evidence, had come from a captain in the US-led command headquarters in Baghdad, and told him and others in similar positions to get interrogators to "take off the gloves."

"The gloves are coming off, gentlemen, regarding these detainees," it said. It said a Col. Boltz "wants the detainees broken." It did not identify him further. *Reuters*

Iran given last chance to come clean on nukes

VIENNA—Europe's three heavyweight states were Thursday to give Iran a last chance to reassure the world it is not secretly developing atomic weapons, offering valuable nuclear technology as a carrot and possible UN sanctions as the stick.

Britain, France and Germany are ready to promise Iran nuclear technology, including supplying a light-water reactor, if Tehran indefinitely suspends all uranium enrichment activities, according to a confidential document obtained by AFP and confirmed in Vienna by diplomats.

Political directors from the foreign ministries of the three European states are to meet in Vienna with Iranian foreign ministry international political affairs director Amir Hossein Zamani-Nia, Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said.

Ambassador Pirooz Hosseini said Iran expected to receive a proposal from the European trio but that no decision would be reached Thursday.

"We have to receive the text and then take it back to our capital and see if it is approved, and if it is not approved, then that is another story," Hosseini said.

Iran had refused Wednesday to give up on producing enriched uranium, which is the process used to make fuel for civilian reactors but also the explosive core of nuclear weapons.

"We demand respect for our rights to have nuclear technology for civilian use and that no one tries to deprive us of this," President Mohammad Khatami said, but added that "we are ready to cooperate and believe that dialogue and negotiation are the only ways to reach an understanding."

Iran insists its nuclear program is strictly peaceful.

The meeting, which diplomats said was to be held at a secret location to avoid press coverage, is to give Iran a last-chance to come clean before the IAEA decides on Nov. 25 whether Iran is cooperating with it or not.

The United States wants the IAEA, which since February 2003 been investigating Iran on US charges that the Islamic Republic has a covert nuclear weapons program, to send Iran to the UN Security Council, which could impose punishing sanctions. *AFP*

Roh can't move capital, S. Korea tribunal rules

SEOUL—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun suffered a major political setback on Thursday when the Constitutional Court ruled his controversial $45 billion plan to move the capital was unlawful.

Roh had made relocating the administrative capital away from crowded Seoul to two rural counties in the central region of Asia's third-largest economy a key pledge in his 2002 election campaign.

The court's nine crimson-robed judges, in a televised sitting, ruled by a majority decision that a constitutional amendment was needed to shift the capital from Seoul.

"The case has the six required for the follow ruling; the special law on capital relocation is unconstitutional," said the president of the court, Yun Young-chul.

Roh has argued the move would allow balanced development in the country, which is the size of Belgium. More than 10 million of its 48 million people live in the capital.

Opponents said Roh's plan was ill thought out and lacked a consensus. They said moving the capital south would send the wrong signal to North Korea because it could be taken to mean the South did not expect re-unification soon.

A spokesperson for Roh's ruling Uri Party described the ruling as "very unfortunate," according to YTN television news.

Seoul city council members, academics and civic group representatives had lodged the case with the court in July, saying a referendum should be held before the government could move ahead with the move. A majority of judges backed that view.

Shares in construction and cement companies fell on South Korea's main stock exchange after the ruling was announced. The won and bonds were unchanged. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE DA
The W

Corruption rampant worldwide, says watchdog

LONDON—Corruption is crippling the battle against poverty and robbing oil-rich countries such as Iraq of their development potential, a respected global graft watchdog said Wednesday in an annual report on sleaze.

Haiti and Bangladesh were perceived as the world's most corrupt nations in the survey of 146 countries by Transparency International, closely followed by Nigeria, Burma (also known as Myanmar) and Chad.

"This is an amazing evidence again that corruption is still rampant all over the world," the organization's chair Peter Eigen told a press conference in London.

"In most countries economic policy is still perverted by corruption... and therefore poverty cannot be effectively addressed."

The index by the Berlin-based watchdog looks at perceived corruption among public officials and politicians.

Just below the worst five countries were Paraguay and Azerbaijan, all seven of which scored less than two out of a best possible score of 10.

Sixty countries failed to score three out of 10, the mark corresponding to Transparency's benchmark for "rampant corruption," while 106, fully two thirds of those surveyed, scored less than five.

The countries with the cleanest slate were Finland, New Zealand, Denmark, Iceland and Singapore.

Eigen said developing countries in particular must root out sleaze in public works if they hoped to improve the quality of life of their citizens.

"Corruption in large-scale public projects is a daunting obstacle to sustainable development, and results in a major loss of public funds needed for education, health care and poverty alleviation, both in developed and developing countries," he said in a statement.

"If we hope to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, governments need to seriously tackle corruption in public contracting," he said, referring to a United Nations target set in 2000.

He added that nations rich in natural resources too often undermined their own prospects with widespread graft and kickbacks among local leaders and foreign investors.

"Oil-rich Angola, Azerbaijan, Chad, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen all have extremely low scores," he said, indicating high corruption.

"In these countries, public contracting in the oil sector is plagued by revenues vanishing into the pockets of Western oil executives, middlemen and local officials."

The anticorruption official issued a particular warning over Iraq, which he said was at risk because of its combination of oil reserves and post-conflict instability.

"Whenever there is a rush and a push (for reconstruction), particularly when petroleum is involved, the danger of corruption is immense," Eigen said.

He and Jeremy Carver, head of international law at the London firm Clifford Chance, said procurement of large-scale public contracts, such as those being disbursed for Iraq's reconstruction and stabilization, were potential sources of corruption.

Referring to the US contractor Halliburton, winner of a multibillion-dollar no-bid contract from the US government for work in Iraq, Carver said: "This is an absolutely clear example of what happens in the post-conflict zone."

"Without strict anti-bribery measures, the reconstruction of Iraq will be wrecked by a wasteful diversion of resources to corrupt elites," Eigen said.

He urged Western countries to require oil companies to open their books to show what they pay in fees, royalties and other payments to host governments and state oil companies.

Perceived corruption increased in the past year in Bahrain, Belize, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Oman, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago, according to the Transparency survey.

But a drop in graft was seen in Austria, Botswana, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, France, Gambia, Germany, Jordan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

The index was based on polls reflecting the perceptions of business people and analysts from inside and outside the countries. This year's index drew on 18 surveys between 2002 and 2004 conducted by 23 independent institutions.

The organization noted that the index included only those countries that feature in at least three surveys, meaning that many countries—including some which could be among the most corrupt—were missing from the list. *AFP*

French students expelled over headscarf ban

MULHOUSE, France—Three more Muslim schoolgirls were expelled in France Wednesday for flouting a controversial law on the wearing of religious insignia in schools.

It brings to five the number of girls expelled under the new "secularity law," which has drawn complaints from some Muslim groups that it represents a form of discrimination against Islam.

The headmaster of Louis-Armand school in the eastern city of Mulhouse, Rodolphe Echard, announced the expulsion of one girl, identified as Manele, 17, who had returned to classes after the summer break wearing first a headscarf and later a bandana.

In another case in Mulhouse, a girl identified as Tuba, 16, was expelled from the Lavoisier school, the establishment's authorities said. A girl was also barred from the Jean Guehenno school in the northern town of Caen on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, two teenage Muslim schoolgirls were expelled from another school in Mulhouse, the first such actions to be taken under the new law.

Under the legislation, which went into force early in September, the school authorities must first try to persuade girls to remove the headscarf and only if they persist in refusing can they be expelled.

The students can appeal the decision.

There are at present 72 school students within the state school system in France who are currently breaking the new law, according to education ministry figures. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US raids kill family

FALLUJAH, Iraq—US warplanes killed a family of six in raids against rebels led by al-Qaida ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, while a top international aid agency suspended Iraq operations on Wednesday after its manager was kidnapped. A Reuters witness saw a man and a woman and four children, two boys and two girls, being pulled out of the rubble of a razed home in the rebel-held city of Fallujah, about 50 km west of Baghdad. The US military denied a family of six was killed, saying it launched four strikes against safehouses used by Zarqawi's fighters. *Reuters*

Prince Harry in fight

LONDON—Britain's Prince Harry was struck in the face with a camera outside a London nightclub Thursday when he was involved in a scuffle with a photographer, a royal spokesperson said. "Prince Harry was hit in the face by a camera as photographers crowded around him as he was getting into a car," the spokesperson said. "In pushing the camera away, it's understood that a photographer's lip was cut." The incident happened at Pangaea, a nightclub in London's West End. Harry, 20, is the younger son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, and in the past year he has sought to shake off a public image as something of a playboy. The incident at Pangaea—described on one Internet site as a lair for "society's cream"—came a week after Harry, an aspiring British Army officer, was accused of cheating in his high school art exams. *AFP*

China gas blast

BEIJING—An underground gas explosion ripped through a mine in central China killing at least 56 workers and leaving nearly 100 missing in one of the worst mining disasters in recent memory, officials said Thursday. The shafts of the Daping coal mine near Xinmi in Henan province were packed with around 450 workers when disaster struck Wednesday just as two shifts were changing over, mine officials said. Battling toxic gases, over 100 rescuers are searching for survivors. As of early Thursday, 56 bodies had been recovered and 92 miners were listed as missing and feared dead. *AFP*

Deadly storm in Japan

TOKYO—Japan's deadliest storm in more than a decade unleashed flash floods that washed away entire hillsides, killing up to 54 people and leaving at least 29 people missing before it veered east into the Pacific Ocean on Thursday. Rescue workers and Japanese troops worked round the clock, digging through mud and debris and combing flooded rivers and coastal waters to search for the missing, Japanese media reported. Authorities said the storm's death toll was the highest since 1988. "The death toll is likely to keep rising, as we take stock of the damage," National Police Agency spokesperson Kojun Chibana said. *AP*

Fear used in great dollops to sway US voters

By Charlotte Raab

WASHINGTON—Forget Republican versus Democrat, conservative versus liberal, hawk versus dove. This year's presidential candidates have all but turned their supercharged race into a choice between Armageddon and survival.

"If violence and fanaticism are not opposed at their source, they will find us where we live," warns President George W. Bush. Vice President Dick Cheney evokes the nightmare of a nuclear-armed terrorist roaming the streets of a US city.

Democratic challenger John Kerry yearns for "a world where no American mother should have to lie awake at night worrying what tomorrow will bring, whether her husband will be safe at work or her children will be safe at school."

The tone has been mounting every day as the race comes down to the wire with each side accompanying its rhetorical fireworks with indignant complaints about the other resorting to the "politics of fear."

With national security a prime concern in the first US presidential poll since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror strikes, both camps have pulled out all stops to persuade anxious voters that only their man can keep Americans safe.

Through increasingly incendiary speeches and television spots that range from merely gripping to terrifying, Democrats and Republicans have pushed the envelope of fear-mongering to a level rarely matched in past White House campaigns.

"It's probably worse," said Adam Clymer, political director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center in Pennsylvania. "This is the most dishonest campaign I have ever encountered."

The most powerful images have come off the television screen, with Kerry, Bush and their supporters framing the Nov. 2 ballot as nothing short of a life-and-death decision.

A new Bush spot features images of the devastation in New York on Sept. 11 and accuses Kerry and other left-wing Democrats of undermining national defense. "Are they a risk we can afford to take today?" the narrator asks.

One of Kerry's commercials shows gunfire in Iraq and a car exploding in flames while a narrator bemoans that "Americans are being kidnapped, held hostage, even beheaded" and challenges Bush to say how he will "fix it."

The fear factor is an outgrowth of a race pitting a self-described "war president" staking his reelection bid on his command credentials in fighting terrorism against a challenger trying to measure up.

Polls show terrorism and Iraq together outranking the economy as the most important issues in the campaign. The Republicans in particular have done all they could to keep the focus on security, which is Bush's strong suit.

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Wednesday showed that 41 percent of registered voters had a "great deal of confidence" in Bush in protecting the United States from terrorist attack. Only 26 percent felt that way about Kerry.

The stakes in the election were reduced to their starkest and most simple expression last month by Cheney who told a campaign crowd that it was essential they make the right choice on Nov. 2.

"Because if we make the wrong choice then the danger is that we'll get hit again and we'll be hit in a way that will be devastating from the standpoint of the United States," he said.

Democrats screamed foul and accused Cheney of recklessness and irresponsibility, forcing him to tone down briefly. But he was soon back at it painting worst-case terrorist scenarios he argued Kerry could never handle.

"The biggest threat we face now as a nation is the possibility of terrorists ending up in the middle of one of our cities with deadlier weapons than have ever before been used against us—biological agents or a nuclear weapon or a chemical weapon of some kind to be able to threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans," Cheney said Tuesday. *AFP*

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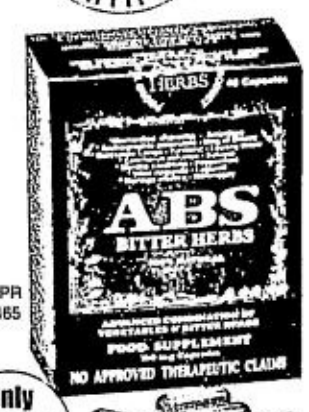

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OPINION

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Commitment

THE DECLARATION of the Philippine College of Physicians' 6,000 members that they would practice their calling in the motherland for at least three years is sufficient reason to bring on the clichés. In the face of the shocking number of doctors crowding nursing schools preparatory to heading for the proverbial greener pastures overseas, it's like a candle in the dark, a shot in the arm of an ailing patient, a patch of rain in a drought. And because it comes with the promise that each physician will engage in charity work among the impoverished, the declaration triggers the comforting thought that some medical graduates remain committed to the Hippocratic Oath.

EDITORIALS

But it's cold comfort. Even as PCP president Adrian Peña signed the declaration last week, the phenomenon of doctors studying to be nurses with the end in view of landing a job in a hospital abroad continues to alarm. Physicians in large numbers are now enrolled in nursing schools nationwide, with certain schools opening special sections to take advantage of the crush.

As noted by a study conducted by the National Institute of Health, the Philippines has achieved another, somewhat dubious, distinction: It is now the world's No. 1 exporter of nurses. As many as 50,000 nurses, among them ex-physicians, have decamped for parts abroad in the past three years—unprecedented even in this country that has made a policy of labor export for the longest time, and, according to NIH director Jaime Galvez-Tan, a distressing development that must immediately be addressed.

The NIH says as many as 4,000 doctors are enrolled in nursing courses. The number presumably includes 350 doctors, some of whom work as municipal health officers, studying at the City Colleges of Urdaneta in Pangasinan. The Philippine Medical Association, composed of 60,000 registered physicians, counts one member out of five taking up nursing. PMA president Bu Castro concedes that because of the lack of doctors, a "health care crisis" now plagues the rural areas—the same areas that generally get the short end of the stick when the going gets rough. As now.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit describes the situation as a "malady" that must be "attacked in body, mind and spirit." But it doesn't look like he'll get much help from an administration that for this year allotted P12.8 billion for health (as opposed to P43.8 billion for the military), and that pays doctors working in state hospitals an estimated $400 a month (as opposed to $4,000 a month for nurses in US hospitals, with immigrant status for family members thrown in).

The "malady" is exacerbated by a government policy that hinges, not on the creation of jobs, but on the continuing export of labor worldwide as housemaids, carpenters, plumbers, waiters, beauticians, nannies, drivers, teachers, caregivers, and—the latest demand of the industrialized world—nurses. Is it any wonder that the Philippine Society of Hypertension, recognizing the drain in doctors/nurses as a threat to local health care, is pushing the education of physicians in the basics of entrepreneurship? The PSH position is simple: If money has become a major problem, committed physicians should not turn to nursing and fly but stay and learn the necessary skills to put up business ventures of their own. It's a case of being able to earn enough from a side activity to honorably support not only oneself and one's family but also one's life commitment.

Passion

THAT medicine is a commitment has long been displayed by many Filipino physicians, well-known or unsung. Bobby de la Paz showed it in Samar in the dark days of the Marcos dictatorship, and paid with his life for it. Ernest "Che" Guevarra showed it in the evacuation centers in Pikit, Cotabato, and was widely recognized for it.

Guevarra was 25 when he was given the Reebok Human Rights Award in 2003 for bringing health services to people trapped in conflict zones. And yet he was loath to bask in the recognition, which was bestowed at a time of renewed fighting between government troops and separatist rebels in Mindanao.

His formulation of his feelings vis-à-vis the award was both memorable and evocative of the young doctor's passion: "I can't feel the magnitude of the thrill. It's recognition for what I have done, but the situation here is so overwhelming for me to even think about it. With the human suffering here, I can't see the value of my work. Ultimately, I can say that it's joy amidst sorrow."

Poor Filipinos reduced to eating garbage

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TWO young children died the other day because they ate rotten food recovered from a garbage can and brought home by their father. Did you get that? Poor Filipinos have been reduced to eating garbage—literally—and are dying because of it.

As the cliché goes, they're caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. They'll die of starvation if they don't eat, but they'll die anyway if they eat the garbage that they are able to scrounge from the trash cans.

Can you see the irony? Officials of government financial institutions take home millions of pesos in salaries and politicians travel in style around the world and eat the most expensive steaks while their constituents eat garbage! Generals amass wealth and squirrel them away in other countries while the people whom they are sworn to serve wallow in poverty! Our own President travels all around the country and the world with a retinue, shakes hands and delivers speeches and cuts ceremonial ribbons, while her constituents living in appalling conditions not very far from Malacañang Palace are dying because they are forced to eat garbage!

Poor Filipinos being reduced to eating garbage is nothing new. That has been going on for quite some time, but our officials treat it as nothing more than a bad dream that will go away when they wake up. But it is only in the Arroyo administration that some of them actually died because of it.

The administration was shocked awake by a recent survey that hunger stalks the land. Its knee-jerk reaction was to distribute food coupons. In other words, Filipinos will queue up in long food lines to wait for their daily food coupons like beggars. Is it not yet enough that we are known around the world as "the begging bowl of Asia"? That our President and diplomats travel the globe with begging bowl in hand to beg for aid and loans? Now we want to rub it in by having photographs and TV footage of long lines of Filipinos begging for food coupons.

The food coupons will initially cost the cash-starved government P67 billion. After that is gone, the people will still be hungry for the next meal. But there probably will be no next meal because the government can't afford it anymore. By then the food coupons will have already bolstered our culture of mendicancy, a bad habit that our government, judging from the billboards prohibiting begging and the giving of alms, is trying to discourage. But how can the government discourage something that it is propagating?

Instead of spending that P67 billion on free food coupons, why not use that to give jobs to those who need them? Give the people dignity. Let them work for their food instead of giving them handouts. Instead of begging, they would be working. They don't want to beg; they want to work. But there are no jobs. The President promised "10 million jobs" but instead of creating new jobs, she is going to throw thousands who already have government jobs out of work.

Meanwhile, thousands of kilometers of feeder roads and irrigation ditches need to be built to boost food production, but there is no money for them. Thousands of schoolhouses are needed to prepare young minds for the challenges ahead, but there is no money for more school houses. Millions of homes need to be provided for the homeless but there is no money left for them after paying our foreign debt.

There are millions of Filipinos who are willing to work, and in fact are asking for jobs to be able to feed their families, but the government is not giving them jobs. Instead, it plans to distribute food coupons, which is like putting Band-aid on a festering ulcer.

The coupons will be distributed through the barangays and local government units, which means that ward leaders and followers of the local politicians will get them first. In fact, the politicians may get the lion's share of the coupons, in the same way that relief goods supposed to be distributed to victims of calamities often end up in the bodegas of the affluent and influential citizens. That is political patronage that will come in handy for the 2007 elections.

GMA's own father, President Diosdado Macapagal, gave emergency jobs to those who were willing to work early in his term. He created the Emergency Employment Administration under the Department of Labor. Workers were hired to repair roads and build new ones. It brought food to the tables of the hungry. And they didn't have to beg for it; they earned it.

That was adopted from the post-Depression policy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt of giving emergency jobs to jobless Americans. And it helped America recover from the Depression.

As an economic tool, emergency employment makes a lot of sense. By giving jobs to people, you give them money to spend. They spend the money to buy food, clothes and other necessities. This in turn makes the factories produce more of them and hire additional workers. The additional workers spend more money to buy what they need and the cycle goes on and on and the economy grows.

But using billions of government money on non-productive things like food coupons produces nothing and promotes nothing. There is no chain-effect. After eating his daily ration, the man of the house sits back and fondles his fighting cock and waits for the next queue to get his next coupon. He doesn't have to look for a job. He and his family will eat anyway even if he has no job. He has the administration to thank for that.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Sen Lito Lapid: ***Ano ba ang ibig sabihin ng*** **"fiscal crisis"?**

Sen. Bong Revilla: ***Ah, ang ibig sabihin n'yan may*** **shortage** ***ng mga*** **fiscal.**

When warriors lived by a code

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

MAJOR Gen. Carlos Garcia invoked his constitutional right against self-incrimination some 30 times before our lawmakers of the land.

But "taking the Fifth," as it is better known in American law where this right is embodied in the Fifth Amendment to their constitution, cannot save Garcia, because he is sufficiently implicated by: his son's undeclared $100,000 at a US airport; his wife's sworn statement before US customs authorities explaining that this was "gratitude money from [AFP] contractors"; his own letter to US authorities explaining that the money came from "savings, honoraria and dividends"; his unexplained wealth and unexplainable bank accounts; his midnight withdrawals of millions right before these were frozen by the courts; his suspect illness to excuse non-appearance before a congressional panel; the eerie silence of his fellow officers. Strangely then, taking the Fifth serves to shield not Garcia who invokes it, but his yet invisible cohorts in thieving.

Significantly, when comrades in arms are likewise partners in crime, it may take a highly political body like Congress and not the courts acting alone to carry through an investigation. This episode may yet redeem the much-maligned power of congressional inquiry. Critics have often parodied these "inquiries in aid of legislation." Perhaps now they must grant our congressmen a little more credit.

Earlier attempts to run after graft in the military has faced rough sailing in our courts. The Sandiganbayan had earlier thrown out a complaint for an almost P200-million anomaly involving overpriced real estate purchased by the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS), the milking cow that the Feliciano Commission investigated after the Magdalo mutiny. The Sandiganbayan declared that the RSBS was not a government entity and therefore its officers were not bound by the ethical rules that govern public officers. Had it not been for the Supreme Court that reversed this ruling and allowed the case to proceed, the Sandiganbayan would have forever insulated the RSBS from its scrutiny.

Yet the Sandiganbayan persists. More recently, it allowed former Brig. Gen. Jose S. Ramsical, one of those implicated in that scam, to leave for the United States to visit a sick relative, over the strenuous objections of the ombudsman.

While the Court of Appeals has granted the request of the Anti-Money Laundering Council to freeze Garcia's assets, it was only after Garcia had already withdrawn P19 million, capped later by a reported P13 million withdrawal.

The mismatch alone between Garcia's legal income, his declared assets, and his newly-exposed millions gives rise to a clear case for the forfeiture of unexplained wealth, as specifically provided for by law. Yet our law-enforcement bodies seem to be falling over one another, saying, "After you, gentlemen."

Some critics fault our congressmen for "grandstanding" during the Garcia hearings. I disagree. It takes our elected legislators to take our military to task. Not the President, who is ever so careful lest she provoke another coup. Not the President's Cabinet men and women who are bereft of an electoral mandate and dependent upon the President's political fortunes. And, but for a few shining moments, not the courts either. They all are too refined, their condemnations too finessed, their positions so nuanced. They are incapable of outrage because they tread on dangerous ground when they inquire into military perks. Only the raw power of politics can stand up to the raw power of arms. Martial law fused them together once, and it took Edsa I to split them asunder.

But our pampered and privileged military is one martial law legacy that we have not outgrown. After Edsa I, many had hoped that a Truth Commission would look into the record of human rights abuses during the dark years, but pragmatism prevailed. Better to forget the past, look to the future and move forward, lest the military get restive all over again. Better still, leave it to the courts of Honolulu to hear the human rights cases, beyond the reach of our unreformed politics, "unwilling and unable to prosecute."

We must demand closure this time around, and not before US customs authorities but under our own law. Alarms have been sounded of impending coups either to avoid a whitewash, or to protest it. We should not be perturbed either way. We listened to such threats right after Edsa I, and until today we are paying the price for not calling one another to account for the tragedies that happened under martial law. We bartered justice for peace once before, and ended up neither peaceful nor just.

In history, in various cultures all over the world, warriors have held a special place but were, in turn, held to a higher code of behavior. The power to wield the sword carries with it the duty to wield it with honor and solely in the name of God and country. That code stands fast for as long as valor is judged in battle, for acts of bravery and for audacity in judgment. That code lives for as long as soldiers know that their loyalty is to a nation larger than the self. It is lost when warriors become bureaucrats, inspired by the next promotion, or businessmen, inspired by the next windfall. It fails when the badges of courage are vested for manning desks and signing vouchers.

The professional soldier becomes nothing but a uniformed Mafioso in a glorified private army the moment he serves a cause personal to himself and his bosses.

The Garcia revelations are not about kleptomaniacs. They are about a lost warrior class inured to the good life. It was easier for warriors to live by the code when they expected to die by that code.

* * *

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The Leyte landing

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

EACH year, Filipinos, together with the Americans, commemorate the landing of the American forces on Leyte on Oct. 20, 1944, as the landmark of the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation, which lasted from 1942 to 1945.

The Leyte landing has taken more significance than the formal restoration of Philippine independence, on July 4, 1946, which former President Diosdado Macapagal corrected by moving the celebration of Independence Day to June 12, the day Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the Philippine revolutionary republic in Kawit, in 1898.

Leyte is more significant to Americans than to Filipinos, because then they emerged as "liberators." But June 12 is more important to us than July 4. Kawit was the place where the Filipinos decided to liberate themselves from American military occupation. In Kawit, Filipinos sent the message that independence was not a gift bestowed upon a vanquished people by their conquerors. July 4, as Independence Day, had a humiliating connotation. The mockery of independence was more grating to national pride in the light of the fact that July 4 is also the date of America's declaration of independence.

The Leyte landing and the independence grant of July 4, 1946, by an act of the US Congress, suggested that freedom was a gift, a handout from a benevolent power.

The other day, the Leyte landing was commemorated on the beach where Gen. Douglas MacArthur waded ashore with Filipino leaders led by President Sergio Osmeña, accompanied by Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, widely acclaimed in other lands more for his rhetorical gifts than his combat record.

The Leyte landing held tremendous importance to MacArthur. It is the event in which MacArthur redeemed his promise, "I shall return," when he abandoned the Philippines on March 11, 1942, leaving from Corregidor by submarine to Australia, as the doomed defense of Bataan and Corregidor was crumbling in the face of the relentless assaults by the Japanese troops under Gen. Masaharu Homma. MacArthur melodramatically announced his pledge through the Voice of Freedom in the heavily bombarded tunnels of Corregidor, partly to lift the sinking morale of the heroic defenders of Bataan and Corregidor and to fortify the sagging hopes of the Filipino people who had begun to doubt America's prospects of winning the war.

Even in the face of defeat, MacArthur never lost his flair for theater. His immense reputation for vanity had preceded his arrival in Australia. The Australian leaders, more Anglopiles than besotted with the Americans, remembered MacArthur's gold braided caps and self-designed uniform upon his arrival to conduct the defense of Australia, which bought precious time from the delaying action of the Filipino-American defenders in Bataan and Corregidor.

MacArthur's secret flight to Australia was the Filipinos' loss and Australia's gain. He exhibited his rhetorical skills to the Australians, with the effect of "calming Australian nervousness about invasion and instilling some confidence about the prospects of American reinforcement," according to a new book by David Day, "The Politics of War."

Never at a loss for the glib word, MacArthur, according to the book, declared to welcoming MPs in Canberra's parliamentary dining room on March 26, 1942 that his presence was "tangible evidence" of the "indescribable consanguinity of race" between the two countries. He proclaimed that he had come "as a soldier in a great crusade," pledging "all the resources of all the mighty power of my country and all the blood of my countrymen." And it was from Australia where MacArthur began the long, bloody island to island leap-frogging campaign that led to Leyte in 1944.

There is controversy over what MacArthur really said upon coming ashore in Leyte. His own memoirs, quoted by Ambeth Ocampo, recall a long-winded oratorical piece, reminiscent of the immortal classical perorations of great generals of history to spur on their troops before they went to battle. A shorter version is recounted in the book, "The Pacific War, The Story of the Bitter Struggle in the Pacific Theatre of World War II." The book says that about four hours after the initial landings, shortly after 2 p.m., MacArthur, accompanied by his staff and Osmeña, splashed ashore.

"As astonished GIs watched," says the book, "MacArthur strode to a hastily set up microphone, and in an emotion choked voice, declared, 'People of the Philippines, I have returned!'"

At the Leyte commemoration, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone read an innocuous message from President George W. Bush which said that the landing was a "pivotal moment" in World War II and a "central event in the long history of friendship" between the Philippines and the United States.

Leyte tends to make Filipinos forget that they had to pay a heavy price for their "long history" of association with the United States. That history has been marred by stormy episodes over unequal economic and political relationships. The most recent of these episodes was the withdrawal of the Filipino contingent from Iraq to save the life of a Filipino driver taken hostage by Iraqi militants. The withdrawal marked the breakaway of the Philippines from the US-led coalition on the war on terrorism.

The Philippines and the United States had a common enemy in World War II: Japan. Today they have a common enemy in terrorists. In today's context, the Philippines need not march to the tune of fighting terrorism played by the United States and even Australia. But Philippine priorities for national survival are far different from those of its estranged allies in the "coalition of the willing."

Outsourcing: boon or bane? (2)

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

OUTSOURCING has been described as a sunshine industry in an otherwise bleak Philippine economy. Last Wednesday, I described the many lucrative opportunities offered by major outsourcing activities contracted out by Western companies to the Philippines—call centers, software development, medical transcriptions and cartoon animation.

But I warned, too, that if we are to tap the full potential of these outsourcing activities, we need to be more aware of the history of outsourcing, and its advantages and disadvantages.

Outsourcing is, after all, only the latest phase in the development of global capitalism. In the 1970s, as multinationals faced rising factory labor costs in their home countries, many moved their production facilities overseas (sometimes called runaway factories) to use cheap Third World labor. In this 21st century, with the explosion of information technologies, the multinationals are looking into the use of these technologies to outsource customer servicing, office accounting and other routine office procedures to the Third World.

How do we stand to gain, or lose, from all outsourcing?

Global coolies

It helps to start by looking back at our experiences with the "runaway factories," mainly garments and electronics firms that now form the backbone of several of our export processing and industrial zones.

Yes, the products of these multinational firms are now among our leading export items. And yes, we did see, and continue to see, the creation of jobs, often paying fairly good salaries based on local standards. Just to give one example, Laguna's electronics firms can offer something like P10,000 a month to a factory worker. For the many young women from rural Southern Tagalog provinces who flock to Laguna, that is a windfall, enough to support parents and younger siblings.

But there's another side to this. These factories have in a sense stifled local industries. Local textile and garments firms, for example, have been practically wiped out, unable to compete with the multinationals, unless they themselves become subcontractors.

In the area of electronics, I always have mixed feelings seeing some gadget sold in an American or Japanese store labeled "Assembled in the Philippines." Note "assembled," rather than "made in." Unlike Taiwan, South Korea and now, China and India, we've always been content to be global coolies, doing the menial jobs of assembling different components, many produced in other Third World countries, into a finished product.

We welcomed these firms thinking of the jobs they'd create, but forget that capital moves into areas where the skills that are needed are cheapest and most docile. We're vulnerable, as the multinationals move out of the Philippines to countries like China and Vietnam.

Hype versus realities

Never mind, we tell ourselves, we have a stable niche with call centers, because, together with India, we have the English proficiency and fairly high levels of formal educational attainment needed to deliver many of the required outputs.

But there's a danger here that we become complacent, believing the hype in the mass media and in the local grapevine about the opportunities in outsourcing. Last month, I met someone I'll call Ana, an ambitious young woman who had come to Manila from Polomolok, South Cotabato, lured by the prospects of becoming a call center operator. Ana was setting aside two years of college courses in engineering and a six-month caregiver course after hearing about the wonders of the call center world, with salaries supposedly running up to $800 a month. Why work overseas when you could earn that much here?

Manila proved frustrating for Ana, with one rejection coming after another. Ana hadn't realized, as with many other call center hopefuls, that last year there were only about 20,000 "seats" (job positions) available. Even with projections of 40,000 seats this year, this is miniscule compared with the number of job-seekers. Outsourcing Digest cites a recent study by the Contact Federation of the Philippines finding that only two or three out of 100 applicants qualified for call center jobs. The reason? You need not just proficiency in English but the potential to get "accent training" so you can be understood by American clients. It's not surprising most of those accepted come from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo and other upper-class private schools.

And the salaries? P12,500 to P17,000 a month is a more realistic starting salary, overtime included. Sure, that's about what a UP instructor gets, but certainly a long way off from the $800 figure being bandied around.

Learning from India

My fear is that we will again remain content as global coolies, deploying UP graduates to handle menial jobs. Call centers moved to the Third World not just because our labor was cheaper but because Americans and British young people were leaving their jobs after a few weeks, totally bored by the routine.

We might want to learn from the Indians, who see outsourcing as part of a larger industrial development plan. Whether call centers or software development, many of these outsourcing firms are situated in Bangalore, India's "Silicone Valley," where they become part of a larger plan to develop India's own information technology sector.

Not surprisingly, the Indians have developed homegrown technologies for local needs, from hand-helds to be used by farmers to computer technologies that electronically canvassed some 400 million ballots during their last elections within a few days. Call centers, the Indians know, generate loose change compared with software development. Last year, their software exports raked in $9.6 billion.

The Indians have a National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) that is able to negotiate on the global market. When American politicians began grumbling about how outsourcing was taking away jobs at home, Nasscom warned them that without outsourcing, the US economy would be in even more dire straits.

Nasscom conducts studies of the world outsourcing market, trying to figure out what niches are available for India. Rather than feeling threatened, for example, by China, a major competitor for software development, they're talking about joint ventures. Similarly, the Philippines is seen less as a threat than an opportunity, with at least one Indian human resource company, Daksh, already investing in the Philippines' call center industry.

Why the difference in approaches? India has always adopted a nationalistic but pragmatic stand in relation to industrial development, bringing in the multinationals but negotiating with them with domestic priorities in mind. We lacked that foresight many years ago when we invited in the runaway factories. It may not be too late yet when it comes to outsourcing.

We're all responsible

(Excerpts from a talk I delivered as one of the reactors in the Second Policy Forum on Development on HIV/AIDS, sponsored by the UNDP, UNAIDS and the International Movement of Development Managers last Wednesday, Oct. 20, with Dr. Kathleen Cravero, deputy executive director of UNAIDS, as main speaker.)

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT are the prospects of galvanizing public and private efforts to slow down the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines?

Let me share two stories about condoms and Valentine's Day to illustrate the scope and gravity of the problem.

The first story concerns the Philippine Daily Inquirer... More than five years ago, I received a call from a friend who works with DKT which markets Trust Condoms... On the occasion of Valentine's Day, Trust was coming out with a "chocolate flavored" condom, one among a line of flavored condoms that had been developed after sex workers, who were being taught how to place condoms on their customers orally, complained about the unsavory taste of latex. My friend explained (that) they were trying to place an ad for the "chocolate" condoms, but for some unexplained reason, it was rejected.

I asked my friend to fax me a copy of the ad, and if I found nothing objectionable, I promised to make a pitch on their behalf. I later called up the advertising department ... and was politely told by no less than the president of the company at that time (who has since left the paper) that they would study the matter. But Valentine's Day came and went and the ad never appeared.

Perhaps I overestimated what is considered acceptable in a daily newspaper. But if motels can go on an advertising blitz around the time of the Day of Hearts, why can't condom marketers?

* * *

A FEW years later, another Valentine's Day. Administrators and parents of a Catholic parochial school had circulated a letter protesting the "free condoms" promo of the 7-11 convenience stores, one of which was located near the school. The letter condemned the promotion, saying it "encouraged" young people to indulge in premarital sex. The letter campaign apparently reached 7-11 management and in a board meeting, they decided to stop selling condoms in their stores from then on. This, despite the condom marketer's protest that the "free condoms" promo was not their idea but the store chain's.

We must understand that Filipinos, or at least those in urban areas, take Valentine's Day seriously. But while it's considered fine to market romance and even sex on Valentine's, apparently it's still taboo to talk about contraception and safe sex.

Perhaps this explains the "low condom use" in this country. Quite apart from the seeming cultural repugnance to its use ... there's also the very practical matter of accessibility and availability.

* * *

FOR some years now, religious organizations and students from Catholic schools have been reported to be going on "door-to-door" campaigns to convince the management of supermarkets and drugstores to remove condoms from cashiers' areas where shoppers could pick them up with little fuss and minimal embarrassment. Some of the stores have instead placed condoms behind the "prescription" counters, where buyers would have to explicitly request for them—effectively keeping condoms inaccessible to young people.

Clearly, the responsibility of responding to the challenges posed by the potential spread of HIV/AIDS in this country lies not only with government or the medical community, but on all sectors, including the private sector, NGOs, educational institutions and the media.

And yet stories like those about condoms and Valentine's show us where the roadblocks lie. For one, they illustrate the judgmental attitude of Filipinos not just towards condoms but what they represent: sex and sexuality. There seems to be widespread unease with the public discussion of sex—especially in connection with young people—with the condom becoming the symbol of our unease and discomfort.

* * *

WHY is this so? Not too long ago, the prevailing attitude was that we shouldn't worry too much about HIV/AIDS or spend public money on combating it for after all it was a disease that affected only "targeted" populations—gay men, sex workers and the sexually promiscuous. Underlying the commentary and the carefree attitude was the sentiment that "these people" deserved what they got, reaping the consequences of their immoral behavior.

The trajectory of the AIDS spread in this country has since debunked the notion that the virus chooses its hosts. Wives of overseas workers, particularly of seafarers, for instance, have tested positive for HIV even if they have been monogamous, for the simple reason that their spouses had not been monogamous themselves. The women became infected not because they were engaged in a risky occupation, or engaged in risky behavior, but because they found themselves in a risky situation. And yet we still hear officials, most famously our President, declare that the reason for the "low and slow" spread of HIV/AIDS here is our "high morality," which is tantamount to declaring that those who come down with the infection were immoral. From that premise, should we conclude then that because they are immoral, they therefore are not deserving of care or concern?

I'm afraid the economic crisis is simply being seized upon as an excuse not to do the right thing when it comes to controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS. Given our discomfort with the public discourse of sex, and our propensity for judging the behavior of others, it's entirely possible that even if we were to suddenly leap into economic tiger status in the next few years, our leaders, both in and out of government, would still be in denial about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS—and sex—in the Philippines.

MacArthur sought RP independence

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TEODORO Agoncillo taught me to be critical of historical sources. His advice was to examine the source—who is writing it and why? Is the narrative written shortly after the event, or remembered dimly years later? Agoncillo said private correspondence was more reliable than public pronouncements or self-serving memoirs.

While reading Douglas MacArthur's "Reminiscences," I remembered Agoncillo's advice. However, there are some details on the Leyte landing I hope to cross-check with a Filipino source like, say, Sergio Osmeña or Carlos P. Romulo who waded in Leyte on that historic day 60 years ago.

MacArthur gave the famous "Rally to me" speech he broadcast to the people of the Philippines from Leyte. Reading the same text today makes people cringe because it sounds melodramatic—and to some, downright corny—yet few know about a letter MacArthur scribbled and sent to US President Roosevelt. Again the text is from his memoirs:

"Near Tacloban, Philippine Islands
"October 20, 1944
"Dear Mr. President:

"This note is written from the beach near Tacloban where we have just landed. It will be the first letter from the freed Philippines. I thought you might like it for your philatelic collection. I hope it gets through.

"The operation is going smoothly and if successful will strategically as well as tactically cut the enemy forces in two. Strategically it will pierce the center of his defensive line extending along the coast of Asia from the Japanese homeland to the tip of Singapore, and will enable us to envelop to the north or south as we desire. It severs completely the Japanese from their infamous propaganda slogan of the 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.' Tactically it divides his forces in the Philippines in two and by by-passing the southern half of the Philippines will result in the saving of possibly fifty thousand American casualties. He had expected us and prepared on Mindanao.

"The Filipinos are reacting splendidly and I feel that a successful campaign of liberation if promptly followed by a dramatic granting to them of independence will place American prestige in the Far East as the highest pinnacle of all times.

"Once more, on the highest plane of statesmanship, I venture to urge that this great ceremony be presided over by you in person. Such a step will electrify the world and redound immeasurable to the credit and honor of the United States for a thousand years.

"Please excuse this scribble but at this moment I am on the combat line with no facilities except this filed message pad."

It is unfortunate that MacArthur has been reduced, in the popular mind, to a fashion icon for RayBan sunglasses. He is best remembered for the promise, "I shall return." Wouldn't he be better remembered for the fulfillment of that promise when he uttered in Leyte rather matter-of-factly "I have returned"?

Brushing up on the Leyte landing made me realize how many books have been published on MacArthur, and yet Filipinos know so little about him or his deep relationship with the Philippines. Our textbooks do not even mention that he wanted Roosevelt to recognize Philippine independence, something that was taken from us in 1898 when Spain sold the archipelago and its inhabitants to the United States for the *ukay-ukay* price of $20 million. Of course, the value of money was different in 1898, but some corrupt military and government officials today have stashed away more than that amount.

While we have to be critical of MacArthur's memoirs, I couldn't get over his recognition of civilian supremacy over the military when he restored the Commonwealth government in the ruins of the provincial capitol days after the landing. Sergio Osmeña, according to MacArthur, was surprised by this act, thinking the trip was largely ceremonial and that he would return to the United States after the photo opportunity in Leyte.

MacArthur did not consult with Washington on this point, causing a rift with Interior Secretary Harold Ickes who wanted to take charge of the Philippines. According to MacArthur:

"It was his claim that the archipelago was a 'possession' of the United States and he seemed to think of the islands as another one of his national parks. In the period before our landings at Leyte, he informed me that he would take charge as soon as we had completed the invasion. Most certainly he was opposed to giving the reins of government into the hands of President Osmeña and the regularly elected authorities."

It was also important that the Commonwealth government took over to temper the witch-hunt for collaborators that MacArthur feared would be put in motion by Ickes who informed MacArthur that "he had been advised as to who had been loyal and disloyal to the United States during the period of the Japanese Occupation, and that he was going to try the disloyal people for treason."

All these come into play in another cloudy part of our history: the collaboration issue. MacArthur says that if Ickes had his way, then one of the many men who would be brought to court would be Manuel Roxas who became president in 1946.

One wonders what Ickes wrote in his diaries and other papers. There is much that has to be researched and reevaluated as we address the rewriting of our history textbooks.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Support Commodore Robles

AS an alumnus of the National Defense College of the Philippines, I have a strong interest in the cleansing and strengthening of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This is my oath before God and our flag.

Therefore, I want my name publicly listed on the side of crusading officer Commodore Rex Robles, whom I had the chance to personally know during my stint at the Department of National Defense. I had my "tour of duty" at the DND from 1983 until 1989, serving the nation under three defense secretaries—Juan Ponce Enrile, Rafael "Rocky" Ileto and Fidel V. Ramos, together with now Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

I remember Robles as a soft-spoken, but articulate man, and I have a high regard for him as a fine officer and a gentleman.

Likewise, I give due respect to the first three Philippine Military Academy alumni who phoned him to express their support for his cause, urging him to continue revealing what he knows about the corruption in the AFP. More should come out.

It is easier to fight in the battlefield than in the courtroom. What Robles is doing now is extremely difficult both for himself and for his family. But Saint Paul wrote in his epistle to the Christians in Ephesus: "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead expose them." (Ephesians 5:11) That is one of our tasks as Christians. And this task is costly because the evil we face will do its best to sow lies and intrigues. But that is the price we have to pay when we face the enemy in the courtroom. It hardly happens in the battlefield. That is what makes Robles stand out above the rest of his peers. His mission is to strengthen the AFP.

I am confident that the AFP, which is now in the "intensive care unit," will come out stronger and taller after this experience. After this "operation" to remove the tumor, we can be confident in the future of our armed forces. Thanks to a fine officer like Robles.

I appeal to the men and women in uniform, to all Christians, and to all men and women of integrity and resolve, to pray for Robles and support him. Write to newspapers and call the radio and television to express your support. Fear not. There is no need to launch another coup d'etat to cleanse the AFP. A coup is counterproductive. We will just be used as pawns by those who have hidden and evil agendas. Another coup will just weaken the AFP, to the delight of the communist terrorists who want to overthrow the republic, and who will always benefit from trouble and anarchy.

The nobler fight is in the courtroom, where Robles will be.

—DR. NORBERTO L. MERCADO, MNSA, bishop and chief of staff, Philippine Missionary Army, icou—world@yahoo.com

In the field of law, not activist law

IN REFERENCE to the news item "Outstanding women picked," (PDI, 10/06/04, Page A3), may I point out that I won The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) award in the field of law, not activist law.

I noticed that in the news item, the TOWNS awardees were identified by their profession like engineer, teacher, journalist, poet; but when it came to me, I was identified as an activist lawyer instead of lawyer, unlike the rest. I just noticed the disparity.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide chaired the board of judges which included former Foreign Secretary Delia Albert.

I've enclosed as embedded file the curriculum vitae I submitted to TOWNS.

—MARICHU C. LAMBINO, marichu.lambino@up.edu.ph

LETTERS

On 'Asya': Correct errors

TO ERR is human. Even the greatest of sages committed some mistakes.

The authors of the book "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" should correct their mistakes. They cited the Encyclopedia Britannica to defend this claim in the book: "the British knew that the Chinese were fond of opium though it was illegal." I looked up the encyclopedia, and I found these excerpts instead:

1. In late 18th century, the British attempted to counterbalance their unfavorable China trade with traffic in Indian opium.

2. They defied the opium ban in China and gradually became defiant toward Chinese law and order in general, having nothing in mind but making money.

3. Lin Tse-Hsu, imperial commissioner for an anti-opium campaign destroyed 20,000 chests of opium, this led to two opium wars. China lost the wars with the cession of Hong Kong and indemnity of $21,000,000.

We blamed our own drug problem on some foreigners, including Chinese nationals. Shall we also say "The Chinese knew that the Filipinos were fond of shabu though it was illegal"?

—JEAN-PAUL SYCO, 808 Ongpin St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Another 'Band-aid'

THE VEHICLE license plate was originally meant as a control mechanism in registering and identifying the number of vehicles allowed to ply public thoroughfares. The first three characters are letters; but the "O" and "I" are not used because they can be mistaken for number "0" and number "1." The first of the three letters identifies the region where a vehicle is registered. On the other hand, the last of the three numbers at the right indicates the month when the vehicle's registration is to be renewed; and the middle number, the week of the month. Since the plate is issued alphabetically and chronologically, it tells if the vehicle is newly registered or not.

But whenever a new president is elected, the design is always changed to reflect the personal preferences of the president. Remember how the peso bills and the coins were bastardized? So has the original idea of the vehicle license plate with the coming of the special, personalized and now vanity plates. Anyone can get a plate of his personal choice of letters and numbers even ahead of the sequential issuances as long one can afford the price, plus the grease.

But according to regulations of the Land Transportation Office, special licensed plates shall only be displayed at the front of the vehicles, in addition to the regular plates. This means that the regular plates of the vehicles must be retained. So the special plates shall only be displayed on top, at the bottom, at the left, or at the right of the regular plates. With these regulations, what is then the legal value of the additional special plates? The answer is nothing but a status symbol, distinguishing the rich from the poor.

What moral and social conscience does one have in displaying a plate worth P50,000 to P150,000 in the midst of the economic crisis and poverty in which most of our people are mired?

To justify, it is contended that the revenues from these expensive plates will help the government in overcoming the fiscal crisis. I disagree. The economic crisis is structural. It cannot be remedied with Band-aid solutions such as the vanity plates, or by the so-called "*bayanihan* or *ambagan* fund," or by the food coupons.

—FRANK MANGULABNAN, 0438 Main Road, San Jose, San Fernando City, Pampanga

Commendation, not condemnation

I AM an officer of the Government Service Insurance System and I wish to take exception to the rather unfair, one-sided remarks that your columnist, Ramon J. Farolan, made in his column entitled "Fat cat is also a Volvo man." (PDI, 10/03/04)

In essence, Farolan questioned the car loan obtained by GSIS president Winston Garcia from the very institution he is managing, and he suggested in the process that the loan was obtained through undue influence. He also went on to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to remove him from office.

I do not see anything illegal, irregular or even unethical with the car loan obtained by Garcia. From what has been established in the records of the GSIS itself, the loan application of Garcia complied with all the requirements and he has the capacity to pay for the loan from his salary. Had Garcia borrowed from another government lending institution or a private bank, his application would have likewise been processed and approved with the same dispatch.

It must be emphasized that Garcia could have opted to just use any of the service cars of the GSIS and he would not have had to apply for a car loan at all. Instead of exercising that prerogative like most other government officials are inclined to do, he chose to pay for his own car, albeit by way of a loan. He ought to be commended rather than be condemned for what he did.

As for the propriety of the head of the GSIS borrowing money from the GSIS, the question raised by Farolan is misplaced. There is nothing wrong with the head of the GSIS borrowing money from the GSIS in the same way that there is nothing wrong with, say, the son of the president of the University of the Philippines enrolling in UP tuition-free. Besides, the loan application obtained by Garcia is properly documented. In fine, as long as a GSIS member is qualified to borrow from the GSIS, he should be allowed to do so, whoever he is. What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander.

Regarding the suggestion that President Arroyo ought to fire Garcia from the GSIS, suffice it to say that the President has spoken, and that she is of the view that Garcia should stay in office. The position of the President simply reflects the principle that a person is presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. Nothing of substance has been proved against Garcia and until that happens, he ought to stay in office and continue with the reforms which he has introduced in the GSIS, reforms which, in our mind, are the very reasons why vested interest groups want his ouster in the first place.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA, vice president, Public Affairs Office, Government Service Insurance System, Financial Center, Pasay City

Garden in the city

BOUNDED by Misamis Street, Nueva Ecija Street and Nueva Viscaya Street in Barangay Sto. Cristo, Bago Bantay, Quezon City—almost opposite SM City North Edsa and adjacent to the offices of the Department of Education-National Capital Region and the Division of City Schools, Quezon City—is a parcel of land which has been idle for decades. But sturdy trees now abound in the area. As shown by the rusty signboard, the place, which used to be the site of a military reservation, is under the jurisdiction of the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Since Metro Manila is in dire need of green areas or so-called pocket forests, may we suggest that this parcel of land be developed into an ecology park, with the trees there.

The metropolis is congested and polluted. It needs more breathing space. This area, within a commercial center, can serve the purpose well.

In this light, I propose that the BCDA, the National Parks Development Committee, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Quezon City local government pool their resources and develop the area into a green park.

—EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO, president, National Organization of Professional Teachers Inc., National Capital Region, Misamis Street, Sto. Cristo, Bago Bantay, QC

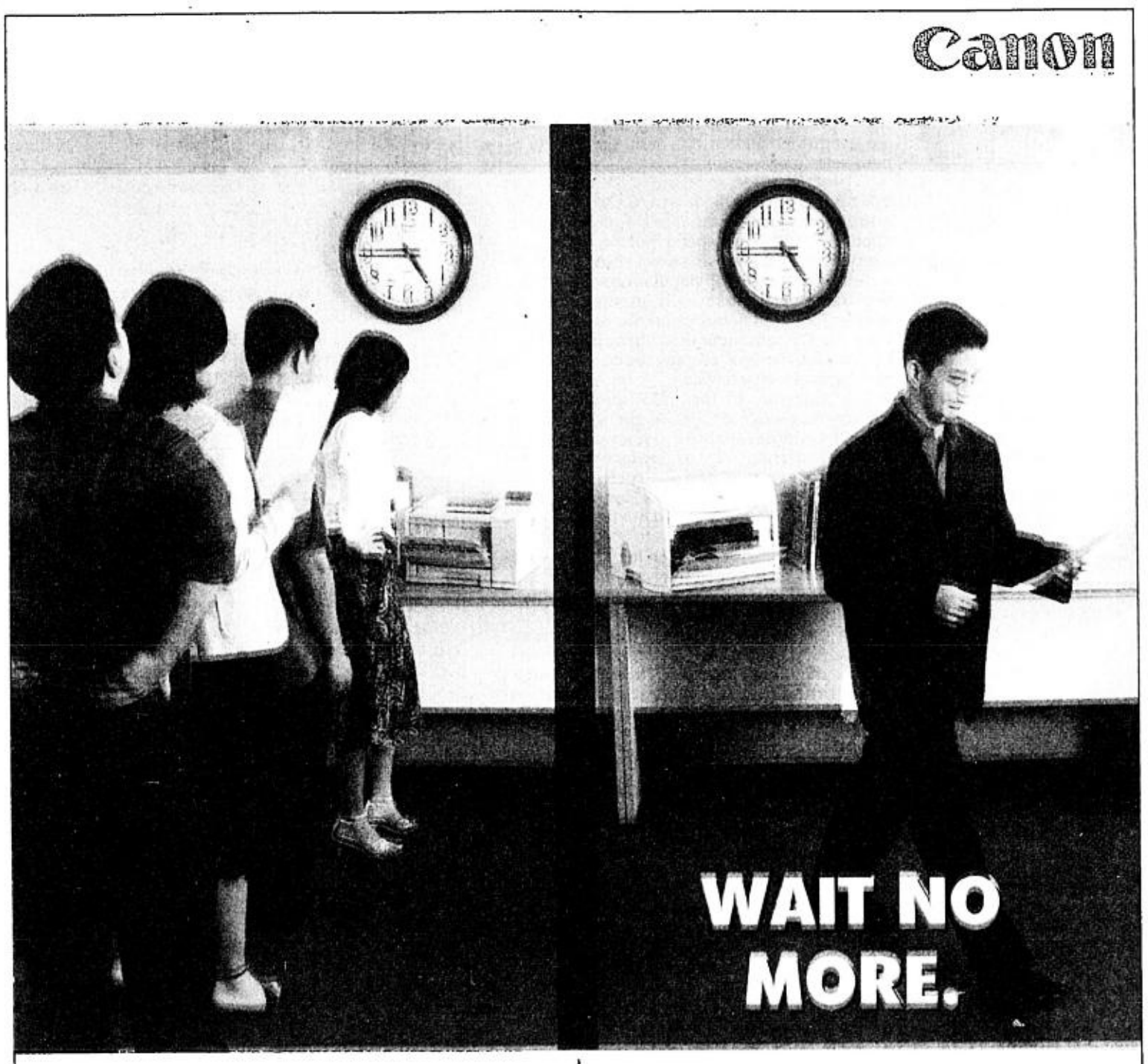
Exorbitant 'just payments'

THIS is about the National Power Corp. and its sister corporation known as Transco (Transmission Corp.) and the graft and corruption being committed by insiders in connivance with outsiders.

This refers to the excessive or exorbitant "just payments" for lands being expropriated for the right of way of transmission lines. Aside from this, farmlands are instantly converted to residential lands to command higher market prices.

It is high time that the Department of Justice, Department of Energy, Ombudsman, Office of the Solicitor General and other investigative agencies of the government investigate and stop these illegal and immoral practices.

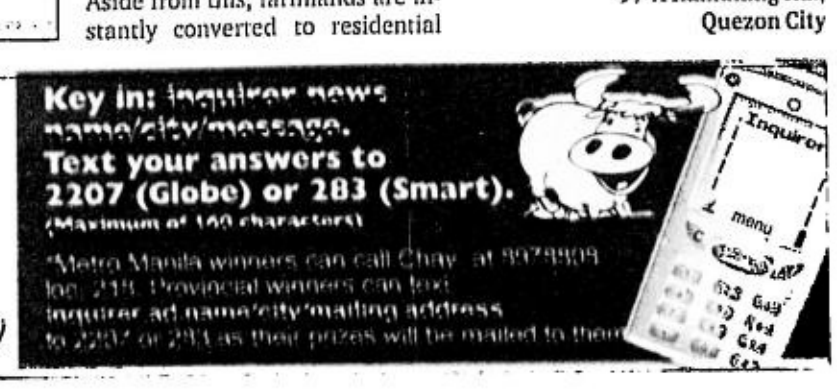
—JOSE VILLANUEVA REYES, 97-A Kamuning Rd., Quezon City



Question of the Week

Do you think something good will come out of the investigation of the alleged ill-gotten wealth of some AFP officials?

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wil. each receiv an "Inquirer T-shirt!Ü*



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Girl positive cultist killed Yongco

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Three witnesses identified Michel Favila as the man whom they saw carrying a gun near the house of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco at that time she was killed.

This was learned yesterday from Supt. Salvador Manga, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas.

Manga said the 10-year-old girl was the first to identify Favila past 10 p.m. on Wednesday night after he was turned over to the CIDG by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"*Mao gyud na* (That is him)," Manga quoted the girl as saying, after seeing Favila, who was in an adjacent room, through a one-way mirror on Wednesday night.

Manga noted that the girl did not show any hesitation when she identified Favila.

In her affidavit, the girl said she was walking near Yongco's office in Barangay Zapatera to look for sunflower for her school requirement when she met Favila at about 8:45 a.m. on Oct. 11.

She said the gunman pulled the gun tucked from his waist and went to Yongco's house. She said he even used the firearm to knock on the door.

Fear

Out of fear, she said she immediately went to Yongco's store and bought ice water. It was at this instance when she heard the gunshots.

When she went out of the store, the girl said she saw the man still holding the gun, get out of Yongco's office and walk toward a motorcycle parked near an acacia tree.

Manga said four other witnesses went to the CIDG yesterday.

But only two were able to identify Favila as the armed man whom they saw near Yongco's office either before or after Yongco's killing.

The two other witnesses, however, were not sure, said Manga who refused to name the witnesses for security reasons.

The CIDG filed murder complaint against Favila on Tuesday at the city prosecutor's office after their witnesses identified Favila as the gunman who shot and killed Yongco on Oct. 11 inside her office on the ground floor of her house in Barangay Zapatera this city.

Favila, however, showed up at the NBI office in Palawan on Tuesday to "clear" his name.

Supreme master

He was flown to Manila on Wednesday and was presented to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. In the afternoon, NBI officials escorted him to Cebu.

Favila is a member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) whose "supreme master," Ruben Ecleo, stands trial for parricide, which Yongco was prosecuting. Ecleo is accused of killing his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Favila denied killing Yongco. He said he was making a small boat in his home in Barangay Talaga, Cagayancillo town, an island municipality of Palawan, in the morning that Yongco was killed.

In the afternoon of Oct. 11, he said he attended the town fiesta and even watched the local beauty pageant.

But two new witnesses went to the CIDG office yesterday and said they saw Favila at least five times near Yongco's house a day before she was killed.

Manga said the new witnesses went to his office after they saw Favila's pictures in the newspapers.

Cagayancillo Mayor Joel Carceler said the town's fiesta was celebrated last Sept. 10 while the coronation night was held on Sept. 9, the eve of the fiesta.

No record

Still he said he found it hard to believe that Favila could commit such a crime because he knew Favila very well and the suspect had no negative record in his town.

Carceler and Favila, both 49, are distant relatives and grew up together in Cagayancillo. Carceler hails from Barangay Santa Cruz and Favila, an adjacent village of Talaga.

The mayor said Favila ran for councilor under the ticket of the local opposition camp, but he lost.

Meanwhile, Manga clarified that Favila was not detained at the CIDG after he was turned over to their custody. He added Favila even slept in one of the air-conditioned rooms at the CIDG-7 office.

The CIDG chief issued the clarification after Orlando Salatandre, PBMA lawyer and chief counsel of Ecleo in the parricide case, said Favila could not be detained because the case was still pending at the prosecutor's office and no arrest warrant had been issued.

"He was not caught in the act or arrested by virtue of a warrantless arrest but voluntarily gave up himself in order to clear his name," Salatandre said.

Salatandre however said that Favila wanted to remain under the custody of the authorities to ensure his safety but he could be released if he wanted to.

GenSan airport shuts off runway lights to cut costs

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Airport authorities here have decided to shut off the high-intensity runway lights (HIRLs) at the General Santos City International Airport during a specific period in compliance with the government's cost-saving measures.

Nathaniel Nazareno, manager of the General Santos City International Airport (GSCIA), told reporters here that the HIRLs, which serve as guides for airline pilots performing landings, would only be switched on from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting Wednesday.

He said after 3 p.m., the HIRLs would be put off.

Aside from the HIRLs, Nazareno said they would also turn off the GSCIA's light precision approach path indicators (PAPIs) during the said period so they could save more.

Like the HIRLs, the PAPIs are also important navigational instruments.

He said the HIRLs and PAPIs require a lot of energy and turning them off would help the airport limit its expenditures.

Nazareno said the cost-saving measure would not affect the operations of the airport because traffic is only heavy up to 3 p.m.

"The operation of these navigational equipment would be confined only during the period when there is heavy traffic," Nazareno said.

Nazareno said those opposing their move could always write the Air Transportation Office (ATO) head office in Manila for reconsideration. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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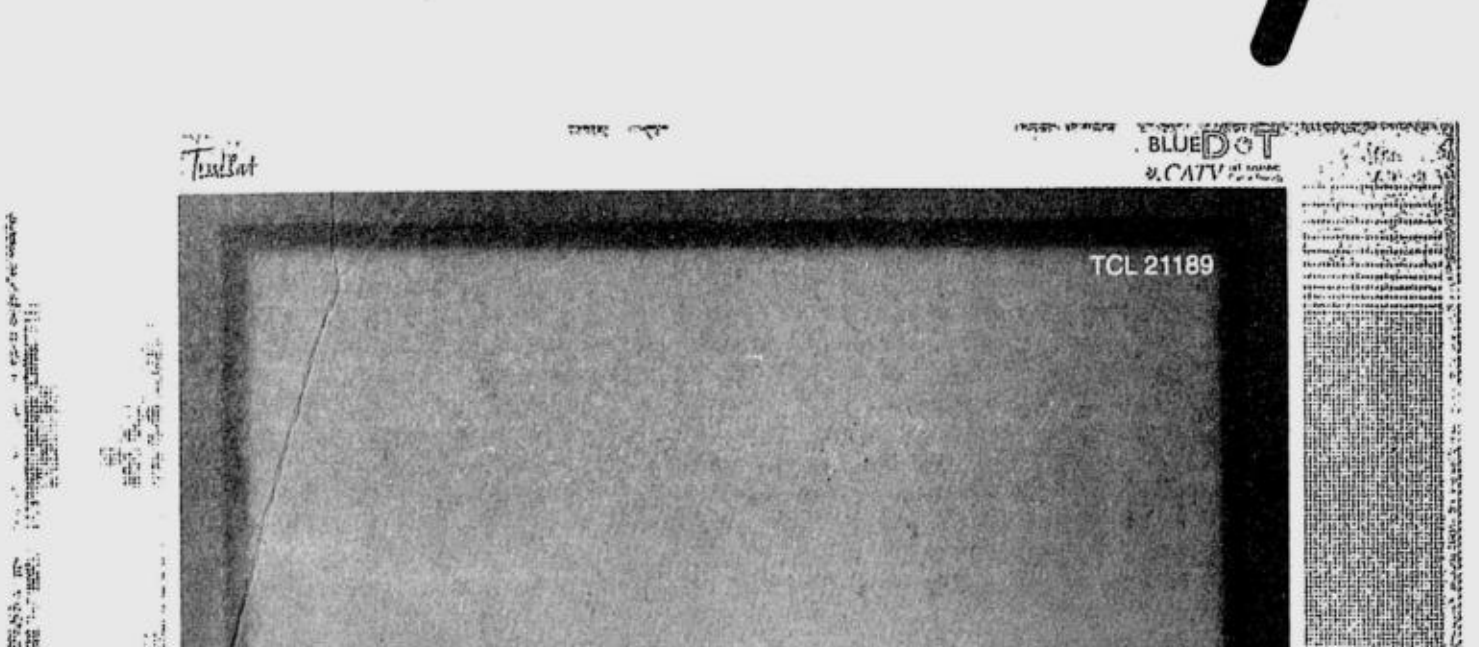

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Benguet folk block mining air tunnels for workers

BAGUIO CITY—Residents of Mankayan town in Benguet have opposed the activation of an exhaust pipe that leads to an underground mining tunnel of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., earning the ire of 1,500 miners who need fresh air.

Mankayan Councilor Florence Timbawan said the town council could not resolve this issue, and had asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to come up with a fair solution.

Jake Foronda, project manager of LCMC's Victoria Gold project and Teresa Ore project, said the exhaust tunnel uses state-of-the-art scrubbing equipment to clean underground mine air.

"We need to open the exhaust because it will equalize pressure, send fresh air to our miners and lower extremely high temperature underground to ambient temperature . . . If we don't provide fresh air, no one is going to work there," he told a press conference here.

Lepanto is a key mine industry player, which draws P2.5 billion in gross revenues annually. It contributes P500 million annually to the economy in taxes and downstream business opportunities and expenditures, Foronda said.

LCMC is undertaking prime gold and copper development projects that will last for another 28 years.

Last week, Philex obtained a permit to explore Kennon Road and adjacent sections of Tuba, Benguet, for a proposed gold venture with international mining giant Anglo American, now that it is winding up its Padcal operations in Itogon, said Redempta Baluda, Philex environment manager.

Foronda presented a petition signed by company workers, asking the Mankayan government to overturn its endorsement of the resolutions submitted by home associations of Mankayan and Cervantes town in Ilocos Sur.

LCMC opponents in Barangays Suyo, Bulalacao and Sapid said the pollution coming from the exhaust tunnel in the past had damaged vegetable plants, fruit trees and animals and might be the reason for the community's health problems.

Foronda said the community might have mistaken mist streaming out of the tunnel for smoke. "We water down the air that (is pumped out of the mine) to liquefy the dust and carbon monoxide that is expelled. That is why there is mist," he said.

Ambino Padawi, convenor of Danggayan dagiti Masecnan nga Umili ti Mankayan (Damayan), the exhaust tunnel was closed in 1997 because of Barangay Bulalacao's opposition.

Xavier Akien, secretary general of Mankayan, Quirino, Tadian, Cervantes Danggayan A Gunglo (MAQUITACDEG), said barangays affected by the LCMC mining operation had claimed that the reopening of the Toking exhaust tunnel prepared the community for the activation of the underground Teresa Ore project.

Vincent Cabreza and Desiee Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Deadly virus stalks kids in Benguet

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Four children here and in nearby La Trinidad, Benguet, have died of infection caused by what doctors say a fast-acting virus in the past two months.

In October alone, six cases have been reported but health officials are cautious not to describe the cases as a mini-epidemic of *meningococcemia* or viral meningitis as they seem to be sporadic.

Dr. Antonio Bautista of the Department of Health's Cordillera epidemiology and surveillance unit called on the public not to panic as they see no link among the cases yet.

"But the fact that we usually have one to two cases every year but now we have seven means that we should be extra cautious," Bautista said.

He said the first case was reported in March but they thought it was too far to be a factor in this month's probable mini-outbreak.

On Aug. 25, year-old Darryl Pocais of Holy Ghost Extension died of *meningococcemia*. On Oct. 3, Marcelino Manalay, 17, of Barangay Upper Irisan, complained of fever and severe headache but died hours later also of *meningococcemia*.

His friend, Paul Gawayan of Upper Dominican, died a day later but a neurologist at the Baguio General Hospital would not link it to bacterial meningitis, Bautista said.

On Oct. 5, Eliza Dipasupil of Barangay Irisan died of *meningococcemia* a few hours after she was admitted at BGH.

Three cases were reported in La Trinidad on Oct. 8 and Oct. 19. A two-year-old boy was also reported to have died of *meningococcemia* on Oct. 19 while two others were confined at BGH after showing symptoms of the infection.

Bautista said *meningococcemia* is a fast-acting infection that can kill a patient, usually a child, in a few hours after infection starts.

The infection is caused by a bacteria known as *Neisseria meningitides*, which is normally found in common throat disorders.

"It is when resistance to the bacteria is lowered that it can attack the body," he said.

Neisseria meningitides is dangerous not because it causes meningitis but because once it enters the bloodstream, it can shock the body and can result in kidney failure or death in a few hours, Bautista said.

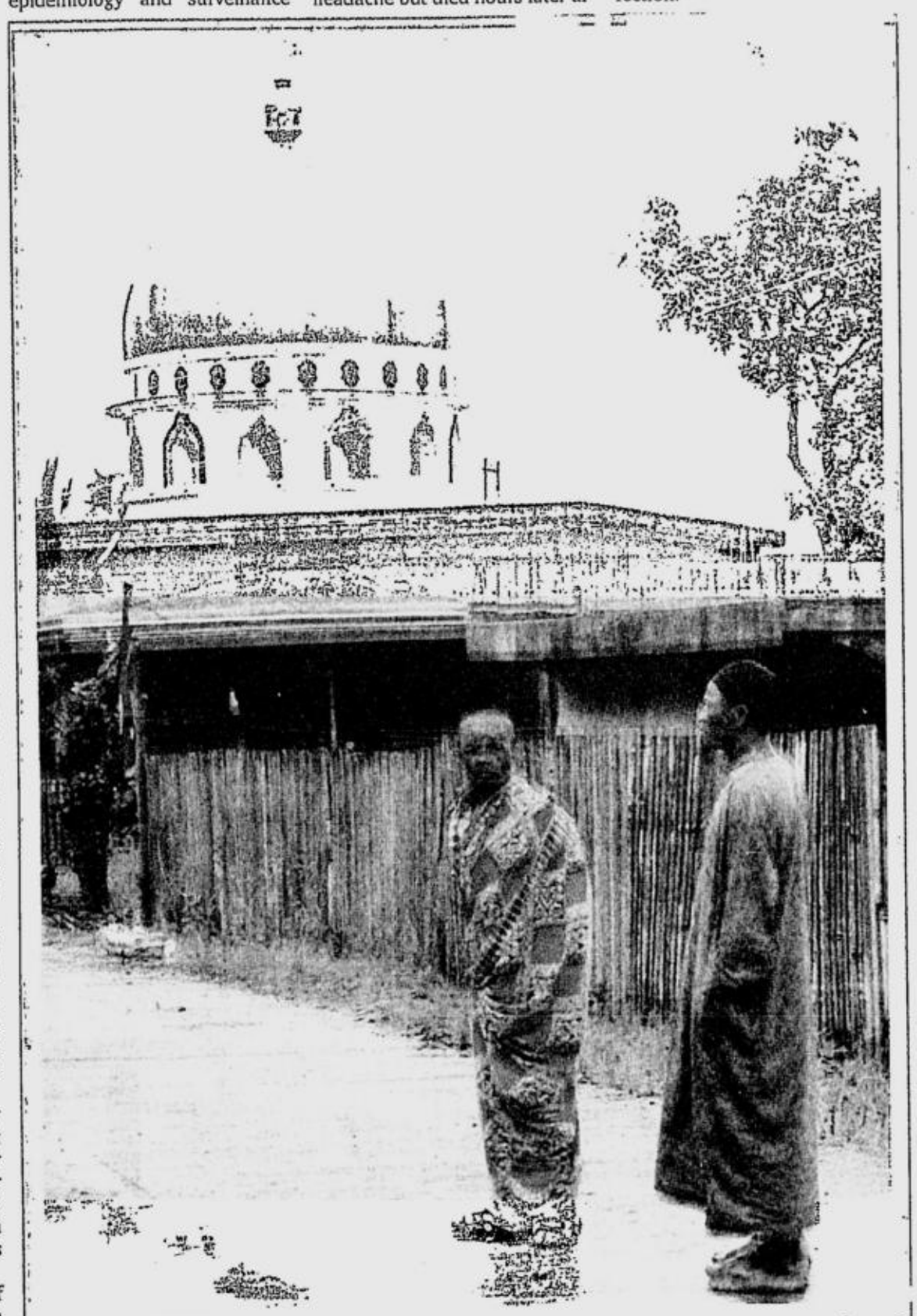
He said the risk of dying from *meningococcemia* is a high 17 percent. In the United States, 80 percent of cases affect those below the age of 10.

"It is possible that Manalay is a carrier," Bautista said.

Meningococcemia is transmitted by direct person-to-person contact through respiratory secretions.

Bautista said they were looking at the home and school environment of the victims to see how they could have affected other people.

Incubation in the body could be from three to seven days, he said.



MEN OF FAITH
JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR
Two Muslim worshippers walk to a mosque in Maguing, Lanao del Sur for prayers. Muslims are celebrating the holy month of Ramadan.

Local governments told to rely less on IRA, more on own revenues

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—As the fiscal crisis shrinks the national government's budget pie, local government units are asked to rely more on themselves to fund their operations and projects.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said local governments should learn to be more independent by improving their local revenue collection and relying less on the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), which is their share of the national revenue collection.

Drilon, who spoke here on the Oct. 21 opening of the Iloilo leg of the Governance Expo 2004, a project of the Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP), said that mayors have always asked him for assistance for projects because they do not have sources of funds other than IRA.

He said that he was surprised to learn that even some progressive cities and provinces have been largely dependent on their IRA by 75 percent even if they could find other sources of financing the delivery of services to their constituents. Other towns and provinces were dependent on their IRA by as much as 80 to 90 percent.

Iloilo provincial administrator Manuel Mejorada said Drilon's observation was true in many local government units. He said that Iloilo province was about 70 to 80 percent dependent on its IRA.

On the other hand, Iloilo City is about 46 percent dependent on the IRA, said Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas in an earlier interview.

However, the IRA, the lifeblood of many local government units, is also affected by delays in releases and budget cuts in the past.

Rosario Manasan, in her paper "Implications of Fiscal Problem on the IRA Allocation," available at the LGSP Expo, said that IRA's release has become "highly unpredictable."

She said that in the years 2000, 2001 and this year, the mandated IRA share was not appropriated in full. In the years 1998 and 1999, IRA's release was not in full while in 1999 it was not released on time.

Manasan, who is connected with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said that even before the government has admitted that there was a fiscal crisis, IRA allocation has been cut by a total of P44 billion from 1998 to 2004. As a result, local government units have been bearing the costs when IRA releases were delayed or not released in full.

With the proposed 25 percent cut in IRA by next year, Manasan said the local government's ability to deliver basic services would be seriously hampered.

In its digital presentation on government finance, the LGSP said that other than IRA, local governments can count on other revenue sources like taxes, fees and charges; fees from operating economic enterprises; grants and donations and credit financing. These sources are mandated under the Local Government Code but many local government units have not tapped then.

Benguet judges to lose offices as more room sought for workers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The provincial government is asking judges holding office at the capitol to move out to give more room for its employees.

The judges refuse to occupy a Justice Hall nearby, which was built by the Department of Justice in 2002 and which was certified complete by the Supreme Court.

Norma Carranza, clerk of court of La Trinidad's regional trial courts, said judges discovered that the Justice Hall is a security risk because their courtrooms actually face the dilapidated provincial jail.

"Any (determined convict) can take a snipe at them. (That's because the courts) were not consulted when the DOJ constructed the building," she said.

Judges suggested in an August dialogue with provincial lawyers that capitol employees can move to the SC Building instead, according to an Aug. 26 report filed by Arthur Bataclao, provincial legal officer.

Five regional trial courts occupy two floors of the provincial capitol, displacing sections of Benguet's budget and planning offices, according to Bataclao's report.

On July 10, Jose Perez, Supreme Court deputy court administrator, advised the judges to move to the new building.

Transco president says local power cooperatives 'milking cows' of execs

LEGAZPI CITY—The top official of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said most local electric cooperatives (ECS) in the country were only being used as milking cows by the officers running them.

Alan Ortiz, Transco president and chief executive officer of Transco, said "majority of the local electric cooperatives are just being used as private savings bank of its owners and managers."

"They looted these co-ops and enriched themselves like the generals," he said.

"Somebody has to say it and I am saying it now," he said.

He also added that local cooperatives have been having clandestine dealings with private contractors, making it a point that the results would be for their officers' personal advantage and gains.

Ortiz's statements came as members of the Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) blamed the National Electrification Administration (NEA) for the downfall of their cooperative.

Aleco was declared "dead" by former Fr. Francisco Silva, NEA administrator and presidential adviser on rural reconstruction.

Eugene Sangil, director and spokesperson of the Albay Consumers Watch (ACW), said the NEA was all to blame for Aleco's fate.

According to him, NEA interfered heavily in Aleco's affairs, leading to its downfall.

"In 1992, Aleco was already doomed when NEA deconsolidated it into three independent co-ops for no reason at all," he said.

Sangil said after the three cooperative (Aleco I, Aleco II and Aleco III) managers' efforts to improve their status from Category D to Category B, NEA again worked for the re-merging of the three cooperatives in 1992.

Silva had blamed corrupt Aleco employees for the cooperative's death.

"From this time on, no more fear of disconnection from Napocor. And it is the employees that shall be disconnected," he had said.

Silva threw the ball to the people of Albay to decide for themselves on what to do with their electric cooperative. The former NEA administrator claimed that he was not washing hands this time, only that he wanted Albayanons to decide what they want to do with the electric cooperative.

But for Sangil, "It was NEA which planted the seed of corruption in Aleco since it was during NEA's watch that Aleco employees were exposed to corruption."

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

HEROES
JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR
Heavy rains can't stop Deborah Gaye Estacio (right) and Orlando Balbido (left) from delivering books to a school in Taraka, Lanao del Sur. Estacio is project director of the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan-Citizens Development Initiatives Inc. (Kaakbay-CDI) while Balbido is the group's special projects director.

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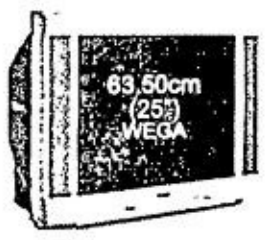

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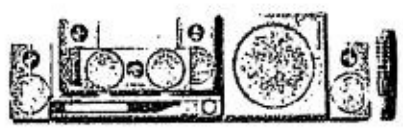

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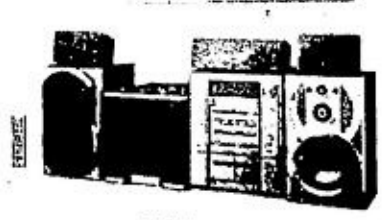

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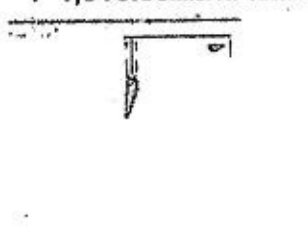

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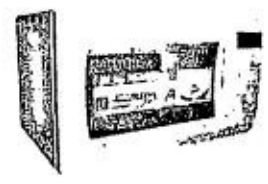

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PROMO PERIOD: October 1 - December 31, 2004

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2255 Series of 2004

The Holiday Season gets an early start this year at Abenson. Starting October 1, 2004, Abenson has lined-up numerous promotions and offerings suited for both companies looking for corporate giveaways or familles updating their appliances for the home. This Holiday has become a perfect time for customers to switch to new appliances whether it be a 21" TV or a new DVD player. "Knowing that our consumers have varied needs, we'd like to satisfy all these by giving them several irresistible offers on top of the usual reasons why they should shop at Abenson," says Marilette Suarez, Abenson Marketing Manager. "Abenson has always been the best place to shop. For one, we have always been all about appliances. We have quality products from the world's best brands. Aside from this, there are many more compelling reasons why you should shop at Abenson."

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Every P1,000 purchase entitles a customer to join the Grand Holiday Raffle where they get a chance to win a Mitsubishi Adventure or any of 100 appliances. Abenson is giving out a SONY PROJECTION TV, MAGIC SING MICROPHONE, HOME THEATER, DVD PLAYER, DIGITAL CAMERA and a lot more. These are all perfect to bring some cheer to the Holidays!

100 GIFT SUGGESTIONS AND MORE

Corporate giveaways, gifts for the family or even giveaways to friends are all covered at Abenson. Get a hold of Abenson's Christmas catalog to check out the best gifts this Christmas. You can get a TV for dad, a Magic Sing microphone for mom or a Playstation for your brother. We even have gift suggestions under P500.

Drop by any of over 70 Abenson stores and give the Holidays a head start!

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Palace forms new Cabinet 'superbody'

From page A1

ment papers, said the OEA would not duplicate the work of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Anti-Poverty Commission which attend to the needs of the poor and marginalized sectors.

Concern for all sectors

"We're not just concerned with the poor, but virtually all sectors," Consumido said.

Consumido said the job of the OEA on the antigovernment groups was "to win them over."

Pamintuan said his office "absorbed" around 50 presidential advisers and assistants and their staff after the Office of the Presidential Advisers/Assistants for Regional Development was abolished.

In addition, he said he would need another 50 of his own staff to deploy around the country.

"Ours is one of the smallest offices," he said.

Originally named Office of Constituency Affairs, the OEA's battlecry was to "bring the government closer to the people and the people closer to the government," including groups hostile to the Arroyo administration and to "build grass-roots support" for the government.

Dumping ground

The sources added the OEA had become the "dumping ground" of presidential appointees whose offices were recently abolished when the President began her reengineering program.

"The President is abolishing agencies but she is also creating new ones whose function will only duplicate the work of the existing agencies," one Palace source observed.

But Pamintuan said the OEA, which was created only in August, was still in the process of organizing and had not received any budget yet. He said he was as yet shouldering the initial expenses for the work of his temporary "task forces."

He denied he asked for P100 million, saying his proposed budget for the last two months of the year was only P3 million.

Pamintuan and Consumido said the OEA was patterned after US President George W. Bush's Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

Pamintuan said Bush's first act when he was elected US president four years ago was to create this office to "democratize access" of nongovernment and people's organizations to government funding and assistance.

"The President's (Ms Arroyo's) program is more expansive because the aim is not just to facilitate access to funds and programs but to engage these groups and help them so that we can also win them over to the government. It has really a very wide and daunting scope," Consumido said.

Accommodation

Pamintuan, former general manager of the National Housing Authority, was appointed presidential adviser for constituencies before his office was created.

Sources said the position was created to accommodate Pamintuan who lost his NHA post to a recommendee of Vice President Noli de Castro.

Ms Arroyo created the Office of Constituency Affairs through Executive Order No. 344, dated Aug. 9. She issued EO 367 on Oct. 4 renaming the agency the Office of External Affairs.

Outside gov't machinery

"The office was renamed because we are operating outside the government machinery," Pamintuan explained.

In her EO, the President said she needed the office to "address the objectives of the President toward the participation of the constituencies in the development and implementation of the administration's programs of government."

Its responsibilities were defined as to "liaison with constituency groups" and to "build grass-roots support for the administration's agenda and legislation."

The EO specifically contained the appointment of a "representative to the Office of External Affairs in the United States with the rank of attache" and a head executive assistant to be appointed by the President.

Political attaché

Chosen for the overseas post was Cauguiran, a provincemate of the President who was formerly with the militant group Bayan in Central Luzon. He was also a former councilor in Angeles City.

Pamintuan said the OEA political attaché post was created to harness the help of some 3 million Filipino immigrants and expatriates in the US West Coast.

Consumido said Cauguiran would be "operationally under the OEA but administratively under the Department of Foreign Affairs."

Consumido said the appointment of a political attaché for constituencies would not conflict with the work of the regular attachés of the DFA and the Department of Labor in the country's various embassies and missions abroad.

Pamintuan said Cauguiran's post also would not conflict with the work of Vice President Noli de Castro, who was appointed presidential adviser for OFWs.

Increase remittances

Consumido said the OEA has the "Balik sa Inang Bayan" which aims to encourage immigrant and expatriate Filipino to invest in job-generating enterprises in their mother country.

There is also a "Dagdag Padala sa Pamilya, Benepisyo sa Ekonomiya" program to ask OFWs to increase their remittance to their families in the Philippines by $20 a month.

"Instead of buying Spam and chocolates, we will ask them to send $20 more every month," Pamintuan said.

Instead of Spam

He said that if 2 million OFWs increased their monthly remittance by $20, this would generate $40 million a month or P480 million a year boost to the Philippine economy.

Seven-point program

Dagdag Padala and Balik sa Inang Bayan are just two of the seven-point program unveiled by Pamintuan yesterday.

Pamintuan said the OEA was focused on helping realize at least four points of the 10-point agenda of the Arroyo administration, namely: attainment of a balanced budget by year 2010; termination of the hostilities involving rebel groups through the peace process; helping heal the wounds of Edsa I, II and III; and creating more opportunities for livelihood and jobs.

Other programs

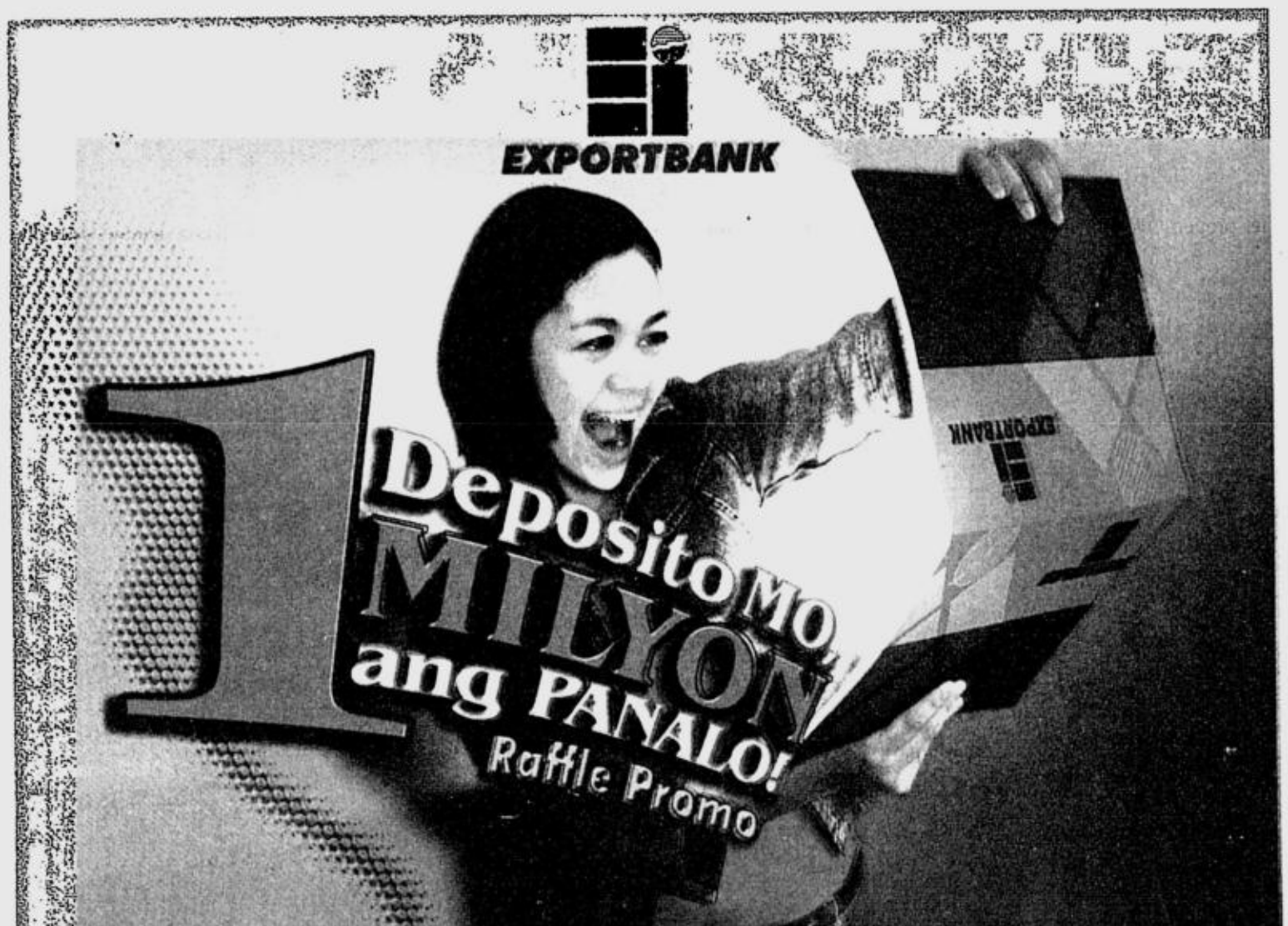
The other OEA programs include:

- Kayang-kaya Program— to promote self-help and mutual-help and self-reliance through the mobilization of the productive capabilities of the constituent sectors to contribute to national goals, mainly through sweat equity.
- Pwedeng-pwede Pala Program—a modeling and showcasing program to prove that the best practices are feasible involving the piloting, nurturing and projection of models among communities, government agencies, local government units, groups and even individuals that are living examples that should be emulated.
- Ugnayan at Bahaginan na Kaunlaran—a program aimed at democratization and facilitation of access of the constituent sectors to support programs and services of the government, as well as private institutions.
- Isangguni sa Bayan—a program that shall institutionalize a dialogue and feedback mechanism of the government and the constituent sectors.
- A social marketing campaign to communicate and win over public support to the various policies and programs of government.

Values education

According to Pamintuan, a common feature of the OEA program component is that each of them involves values education and promotion anchored on patriotism, activism and constructive involvement in nation-building.

"Rather than spend energy sulking and blaming the government for all the country's woes, I think our people was actually capable of facing up to the challenges if only we can engage and mobilize them in more productive undertakings," he said.



Promo Mechanics:

1. The Promo is open to individual, joint and sole proprietorship accounts (new and existing depositors) who will meet the required Average Daily Balance (ADB) for qualified Exportbank products during the promo period.

   For the purpose of this promo, daily available balance will be based on cleared balances (current balance minus uncleared checks). ADB will be computed as follows:

   ADB = Sum of All Cleared Balances During the Promo Period / Total No. of Promo Days

2. Employees of EXPORT & INDUSTRY BANK and its subsidiaries, and employees of MAVERICK ADVERTISING AGENCY, and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promotion.
3. Accounts that are closed/terminated, under litigation or garnished during the promo period will be disqualified.
4. During the promo period, qualified depositors/accounts will earn electronic-generated raffle entries based on the required ADBs. It will be posted in the branch where they maintain their accounts for viewing after the last day of the promo period.
5. The following can qualify to join the promo:

   5.1. New Depositors who will open and maintain any of the following types of accounts within the promo period:

	Required Min. Initial Deposit
Expert1	P10,000.00
Regular Current Account	P 5,000.00
Regular Passbook Savings	P 1,000.00
SSS Pensioners Savings	P 1,000.00
Statement/ATM Savings	P 1,000.00
Employees' ATM Payroll	P 1,000.00
Premium Savings	P25,000.00
Peso Time Deposit	P10,000.00

   Every P1,000.00 ADB earns one (1) raffle point, the higher the ADB the more raffle points will be earned by the new depositors.

   5.2. Existing depositors of qualified products who will increase and maintain their ADBs within the promo period - Every P1,000.00 increase in ADB from October 22, 2004 to January 21, 2005 (Reference ADB) will earn 1 raffle point. The higher the ADB, the more raffle points will be earned by the existing depositors.

6. Exportbank's Deposito Mo, 1 Milyon ang Panalo Raffle Promo will be held on February 4, 2005 at the Exportbank Head Office, Exportbank Plaza, Makati City to be witnessed by a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Representative.
7. A deposit account can win only once. In the event that the raffle number pertaining to the same account is drawn more than once, the said account will be awarded with the prize that has greater value.
8. In case of disputes, the decision of Exportbank with the concurrence of the DTI shall be deemed final.
9. The Bank will shoulder the 20% Tax for prizes worth more than P10,000.00.
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail and their names will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation.
11. Exportbank reserves the right to feature the winning depositors in its PR write-ups and/or advertisements but without additional compensation to them.
12. Accounts should be active until February 4, 2005.
13. When claiming their prizes, the winning depositors must present their valid IDs (e.g. passport, driver's license, company ID, school ID) together with the mailed notice to the branch where they opened their account.
14. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from the notification date will be forfeited in favor of the Bank with prior DTI approval.

CASH /RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON BY THE DEPOSITORS

Category of Winners	Amount of Cash Prize
1st Prize	P1-Million
2nd Prize	P100,000.00
3rd Prize	P50,000.00
10 Consolation Prizes	P2,000.00 each or P20,000.00 Total
TOTAL	P1.170-Million

Promo Period: October 22, 2004 to January 21, 2005

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2535 Series of 2004

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Back to basics menu for the hungry

From page A1

provided in the food coupon program the government is set to implement next month.

Nine items—not 15, as she announced on Wednesday—make up the list: rice, cooking oil, mongo or other beans, eggs, dried fish, sugar, milk, cup noodles, and "fortified" or vitamin-enriched canned sardines.

What, no meat?

Soliman explained the combination may still vary or expand depending on the agricultural resources or the "culture" of the community to be served by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

4 factors

In a separate interview, Social Welfare Undersecretary Celia Yangco said that the agency considered four main factors in deciding which foods to include: They should be nutritious, locally manufactured, affordable and "acceptable" to all clients, including Muslims who shun pork.

There may be areas, for example, where the people would prefer corn instead of rice as their staple, Yangco added.

Food for work, for school

Soliman also said the whole initiative would be officially called Food for Work, Food for School program.

In the Food for Work component to be launched Nov. 15, beneficiaries will be required to render community service in exchange for the coupons.

The recipient, to be selected in villages with high incidence of malnutrition, may swap the coupon for P1,200 worth of foodstuff in government-accredited stores.

Monthly distribution

The coupons will be distributed monthly for three to six months, during which time the family breadwinner is expected to have already found a job or have started a small business.

The Food for School program will give one kilo of rice per pupil per day in schools with high dropout rates in Grades I and 2. It will be implemented starting first week of November.

Gov't response

The DSWD is allotting P51 million for the program, which is the government's response to a recent Social Weather Stations Survey showing that more Filipinos are growing hungry.

PMA alumni condemn graft in military

From page A1

said in the vernacular. He said soldiers like him had to contend with financial difficulties but generals always feasted on steaks.

"That's what I can't accept. While we in the field fight over the limited supply of sardines and our families are miserable, they live luxurious lives. They can even send their children to the United States," he said.

The sergeant said many soldiers like him were thinking of retiring from the service because they could no longer stomach the mess.

A Marine soldier was more confrontational. "It's better to shoot him," he said, referring to Garcia.

Not demoralized, just hurt

But Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, said the 120,000-strong AFP was solid behind its leadership despite the scandal triggered by the charges of corruption against Garcia.

"They (soldiers) are not demoralized. They are just hurt. By and large, the AFP is united and solid," he said yesterday in Zamboanga City.

He said he visited the Visayas and Mindanao to assure the troops the military was serious against the alleged corruption about investigating its officials.

Garcia's classmate, Maj. Ralph Flores, is facing investigation for falsifying his birth date to extend his service years. Another classmate, Maj. Gen. Prospero Ocampo of the Philippine Air Force, is also facing investigation, but military officials have yet to reveal the charges against him.

The PMAAAI, chaired by Stif Oñasque of PMA Class 1954, counts more than 7,000 members, retired and active.

The group said it was supporting a speedy and impartial investigation of PMA graduates suspected of committing graft and corruption.

"(W)e ask the proper authorities to spare no one in imposing appropriate sanctions against those who may be found guilty," it said.

PMAAAI said that its alumni, who were trained in the ideals of courage, integrity and loyalty, should "render genuine service to our country and people."

"It is our responsibility as PMAyers to maintain our integrity, be upright in our ways and bring honor to our alma mater, our association and our families," the group further said.

Abaya, himself a member of PMA Class 1971, said that the graft cases against military officers should be pursued fully and that the necessary punishment should be meted out to those found guilty.

In Davao City, Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin said soldiers should concentrate on their mission against destabilizers because the military hierarchy was already doing something about corruption.

During the send-off ceremony for the 2nd Special Forces Battalion, Bagasin, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said there was no reason for the soldiers to be demoralized.

He said the fault of a particular military official was not the fault of the whole organization.

He said that if the allegations against Garcia were true, the money involved was not intended for those in the field.

"Our men in the field still get their rations so the money must have come from somewhere else," Bagasin said. *Reports from Alcuin Papa in Manila and Julie S. Alipala, and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Wife deposits more dollars after US bust

From page A1

defense and on banks.

Ombudsman records showed that on Jan. 14, 2004, Garcia's wife deposited $204,230, and the next day, $308,000 at a Citibank branch at One Park Avenue in New York City.

The Ombudsman records also showed that on Dec. 17, 2003, Garcia's wife declared upon entering the United States that she was carrying $100,000.

The records further indicated that on May 10, 2002, Garcia's wife entered the US carrying $48,000.

Under US laws, anyone entering the US in possession of over $10,000 must declare the money.

General Garcia was a "passenger on the same flight" as his wife on Dec. 17, 2003, according to the records.

Asked by Rep. Roilo Golez, chair of the House committee on national defense, to comment on this particular trip, Garcia invoked his right against self-incrimination.

But the general is willing to cooperate with Congress to produce a "better" Armed Forces.

Replying yesterday to a question from Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. on whether he was willing to help correct the supposed flaws in the AFP system, Garcia initially said he was not applying to be a state witness.

But when Jaworski repeated his question, Garcia quickly replied: "To testify for the betterment of the AFP, I'm willing, your honor."

Garcia said he felt better yesterday than when he first showed up at the public hearings being conducted by the House committees on national defense and on banks on the alleged corruption in the military.

The lawmakers present appeared less combative in questioning Garcia, former AFP comptroller, and Col. George Rabusa, another official accused of unexplained wealth.

Rabusa, who served as Garcia's chief of planning, programming and budgeting (J-4) for almost a year, said the issue of his supposed questionable assets was resolved by the Office of the Ombudsman years ago.

Garcia reiterated his position that there was no reason for him to apply as a state witness, as had been suggested by some congressmen, because he had nothing to testify about.

He said that the reform programs started by the AFP were "progressing very well," and that he hoped these efforts would succeed because he was retiring soon.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, who will retire from the military service next week, was not present at the hearing because he was bidding goodbye to the troops in the field.

He was represented by the AFP vice chief of staff, Vice Adm. Ariston de los Reyes.

Termites

Told by Golez that the morale of the 102nd Army Brigade led by Col. Emmanuel Cayton was low because of some "termites" in the AFP, Garcia said: "I don't have a view on what he's saying or referring to."

Golez said the $100,000 in undeclared currency confiscated last December from Garcia's two sons by US customs authorities could have been used to buy combat boots for at least four Army brigades.

"[Cayton] was referring to your case, General Garcia," Golez said. "You are not saddened by his statement, about the termites in the AFP? How do you feel about that? You don't feel anything that the $100,000 could have been enough for boots for four brigades?"

Garcia calmly replied: "I agree with your mathematical computation, your honor."

Rabusa's defense

Grilled by Golez on his assets, Rabusa said the controversy had been triggered by an anonymous letter.

Nevertheless, he said, there was nothing irregular in his acquisition of a 240-square-meter property worth P4 million and located at the AFP Officers Village Association Inc. in Fort Bonifacio. He said he bought it with loans from the AFP Savings and Loans Association Inc.

Rabusa said he had no more deposits with the AFPSLAI.

But Golez insisted that the colonel's wife, Debbie Rabusa, still maintained an account there and that Rabusa should have declared it in his statement of assets and liabilities.

On his property in Better Living, Parañaque, Rabusa explained that this was funded by loans he had obtained from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

In the case of the property in Sta. Ana, Manila, he said this had been owned by his father-in-law long before he and his wife got married.

Rabusa also said his functions as chief of the working group under J-4 did not involve procurement of supplies for field personnel.

Family information

Golez tried but failed to get information from Garcia on the confiscated $100,000 in cash as well as the whereabouts of his family members.

Garcia said he was not answering any more questions because his answers would be self-incriminatory.

Asked where his wife and sons were, Garcia invoked his right to privacy. He said there was no point in mentioning his children's names in the House investigation because its focus was the alleged corruption in the AFP.

But Golez proceeded to tell the assembly that Garcia arrived in the United States two days before his two sons were caught by US authorities with the undeclared currency.

He said he had received reports that Garcia was also carrying $100,000 in cash on that trip.

Garcia was also asked about the reported robbery at his house in Camp Aguinaldo on Sept. 14, wherein he supposedly lost P10 million.

He denied that such an amount was missing, and said only his wife's wedding ring, watch and wallet with several credit cards were among the items taken away.

He said he reported the incident to the AFP and it was still being investigated by the office of the camp commander.

Asked by Jaworski whether the burglars were after certain documents, Garcia said all his papers were intact.

"I'm surprised, General," Jaworski said. "We have so much military intelligence, yet a general gets robbed? One month has passed, and yet no information? I hope this is not a reflection of the situation in the war-torn areas."

Reyes owns cock farm in Parañaque

From page A1

a landscape of small green-colored structures housing some 70 roosters. Another dozen roosters and hens roamed the tree-shaded, grassy lawn.

A mocha-colored Isuzu Trooper was parked beneath a round, elevated concrete pavilion.

Confirmation

An official in the subdivision's administration office confirmed that the lot belonged to Reyes.

"Our records here show General Reyes is the owner but we were informed that it was his inheritance," the Moonwalk official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Reyes had been going to the farm since 1995.

He said Reyes' mother also comes to visit—"*nagpapalamig lang* (to relax)"—at least once a month.

Reyes' spokesperson said the secretary was in Geneva and could not be reached.

According to the Moonwalk official, the subdivision fees for the farm were paid last year by Reyes' wife, Teresita.

He said the cock farm was started sometime in 1998 or 1999.

"It started as small-scale, just about a dozen head," the official said.

Reyes declared a total net worth of P18 million last year. His Statement of Assets and Liabilities also listed lots in San Juan, Fort Bonifacio and Parañaque among his real estate holdings.

He also reported his net assets as having increased from P4.8 million in 2002 to P8.3 million in 2003, from investments in restaurants in Bulacan and Manila.

The cock farm was not reflected in the 2003 SAL.

Col. Felipe Tabas

The Moonwalk official said a Col. Felipe Tabas visited the subdivision office sometime last year to ask that the cock farm be included in barangay patrols.

He said that Tabas gave him the impression that the cock farm was only a branch of another cock farm in Antipolo.

Tabas, a 1976 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, served as chief of the Logistics Command when Reyes was Armed Forces chief of staff from 1999 to March 2001.

Tabas was removed from the Logcom sometime in 2001, reportedly over a disagreement with Gen. Diomedio Villanueva who had replaced Reyes as AFP chief.

Tabas has since been been assigned to the 6th Infantry Division in Central Mindanao.

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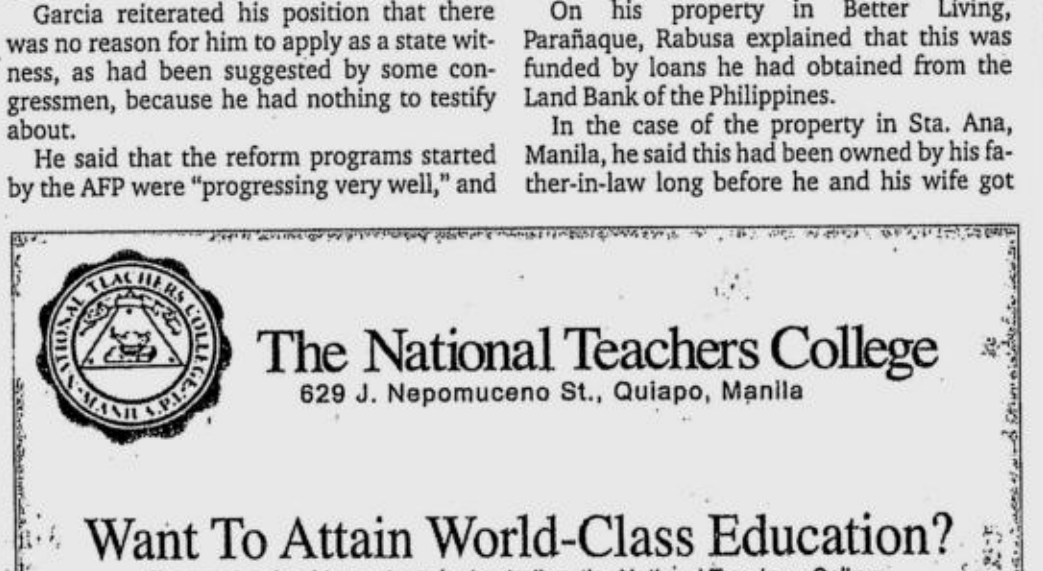

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P52M still in Garcia accounts, says SolGen

From page A1

accounts of Garcia, his wife and their children had been closed days before the appellate court issued the freeze order.

Malacañang said the case against Garcia was not lost even if the bank accounts had reportedly been emptied.

"There is no such thing as a perfect crime in these matters, and the paper trail will be meticulously investigated," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said in a statement.

"As necessary, the government will track down all the documents and evidence needed to build an airtight case," he said.

Explaining Malacañang's new hardline stance, Bunye said: "Nobody should even doubt the political will of the administration to bring grafters to justice and to redeem what had been stolen from the public coffers."

The Court of Appeals on Oct. 14 froze the Garcias' 40 accounts in six banks, a savings and loan association "and all related web of accounts."

The freeze order covered seven accounts at branches of Land Bank of the Philippines in Greenhills and Camp Aguinaldo, 12 accounts at Allied Banking Corp., one account at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, two accounts at Bank of the Philippine Islands, eight accounts at United Coconut Planters Bank, six accounts at Planters Development Bank, and four at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loan Association Inc.

Biggest dollar account

Benipayo said the reports from the five banks showed that a total of $728,066.32 in dollar accounts and P11,439,302.81 in peso accounts had been frozen.

In one bank, the Garcias had $53,779.20 in dollar accounts and P50,224.55 in peso accounts. In another one, they only had $0.69 and P2,725.10.

One bank reported dollar accounts holding a total of $674,286.43 while another reported peso accounts with a total of P6,641,451.19, according to Benipayo.

The remaining two banks had peso accounts—one contained P4,736,180.3 while the other had P8,721.66.

"After a few days, we'll know the status of the accounts in the (two) other banks," he added.

List of real estate

While their financial assets could be transferred, the pieces of real estate of the Garcias cannot be moved. And the list of their other assets in the Visayas alone is growing.

Property worth P18.4 million has been found in Iloilo and Guimaras provinces.

These include six parcels of land totaling 69,011 square meters.

Parcels of land worth at least P10,913,819 were registered in the names of Garcia's sons Ian Carl, 26, Juan Paulo, 23, and Timothy Mark, 21. These are now the subject of investigation by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In separate letters to the registers of deeds of the city and province of Iloilo, Col. Tertullian Duran, deputy chief of the AFP Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability, requested records of real estate owned by Garcia and his wife Clarita Depakakibo-Garcia. Clarita is from Dumangas town, 42 km northeast of Iloilo City.

Lifestyle check

In his letters dated Sept. 23, Tertullian said the request was part of the "ongoing lifestyle check on AFP officers and men" conducted by his office.

Part of the real estate of the Garcias are three parcels of land in Barangay Pulao, Dumangas, where the family-owned farm resort, IJT Katamnan, is located.

The three-hectare resort, touted as the first of its kind in Western Visayas, includes a fishing lagoon, swimming pools, a children's playground and picnic areas. It also has camping grounds, an aviary, butterfly farm, mango-picking grounds, function rooms and native-style cottages.

The resort sits on three parcels of land registered to the Garcia couple and their sons, according to records of the provincial assessor's office and the Iloilo and Guimaras register of deeds.

A 399-sq.m. lot with Transfer Certificate of Title No. 170410 dated March 2, 1998 is registered to Carlos F. Garcia. It is classified as a commercial lot with a market value of P389,030. An adjacent lot with TCT No. T-170611 dated March 13 1998 is registered to Garcia's eldest son Ian Carl. The 1,344-sq.m. residential lot has a market value of P591,360. The biggest lot, 25,388 sq.m., with TCT No. T-178262 dated Aug 23, 1999, is registered to his three sons. It has a market value of P9,862,850.

The family also owns the IJT Mango Orchard Inc., which is inside the resort, and the IJT International Caregiver Center Inc. in Barangay Tabuc Suba in Jaro district in Iloilo City.

The brothers also own a 13,322-sq.m. lot in Barangay Camangan in Leganes town, 10.9 km north of the city. It was registered on April 23, 2003 with TCT No. T-195789 and has a market value of P459,610.

Guimaras property

On the island-province of Guimaras, two pieces of real estate are in the name of Clarita.

One is a 23,558-sq.m. lot in Barangay La Paz in Nueva Valencia town. The property, formerly owned by the estate of the late Anecita Gensole and Sotero Gensole, was registered on Nov. 16, 1998 with TCT No. T-14563.

The other property is a 5,000-sq.m. lot in Barangay San Miguel in Jordan town. It was registered on July 9, 1999 with TCT No. T-177677.

Records of the Iloilo City Assessor Office (CAO) showed that the lot where the Garcia residence is located at 46-A Locsin Subdivision in Jaro district is registered under the name of Clarita's father Quillion Depakakibo. The two-story house and lot has a market value of P550,020, according to the CAO Property Record Form.

The source of funding for the resort had aroused suspicion among Dumangas residents even before reports of Garcia's alleged ill-gotten wealth became public.

Clarita's family is among the prominent families in the municipality. They own land and have members working abroad, according to a Dumangas resident.

He said the Depakakibo clan was also "respected" in the town. Asked who funded the IJT Katamnan resort, he said, "They are rich but not that rich."

A town official who asked not to be named said the construction of the resort was completed in just a year. "It shows that the owner had a large amount of funds," he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Leave it to couples, GMA tells big business

From page A1

"We are not closing our eyes on the issue of population growth, but we are not engaging the issue of what devices should be used or not," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said in a statement.

Signatories

Bunye said the success of the population control program did not rest mainly "on the mechanical methods employed by couples but on an aggressive [information] campaign and the active participation of the local government units and other sectors concerned down to the barangay level."

He said the Arroyo administration itself was "aggressively" implementing an information drive on responsible parenthood.

In their letter to Ms Arroyo, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, head of the Ayala conglomerate, Oscar Lopez, chair of the Lopez group of companies, former Cabinet members and other business leaders called for "greater assistance" to couples who wish to practice birth control. They also asked that poor couples be granted greater access to "all legally and medically permissible goods and services."

Boxes of contraceptives

In response, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and other officials showed reporters huge boxes of contraceptive pills at a DOH warehouse in Tayuman, Manila. They said the stocks of contraceptives were ready for release to local governments and more supplies were coming.

In a statement, the DOH said it had P111 million worth of contraceptives—enough to last till the middle of next year. This does not include some 240,000 vials of injectable contraceptives donated by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UN Population Fund, the statement added.

The DOH largely leaves it to local governments to distribute contraceptives. But some local officials who are close to the Catholic Church have barred their health units from distributing these contraceptives.

"We are promoting natural family planning but we recognize all methods," Dayrit said at a press conference. "We have not stopped promoting contraceptives [but] what the government wants to promote is responsible parenthood."

The DOH stocks of contraceptives were donated by international agencies. The USAID, however, said it would cut by two-thirds its donation of contraceptives by 2007. The agency delivered the last batch of its condom donations early this year.

"The remaining donations would be for the really poor," Dayrit said.

No gov't purchases

The health secretary reiterated that the national government would not spend its own money to purchase contraceptives despite calls from reproductive health advocates.

"No government, to my knowledge, has ever bought contraceptives since the 1970s. They were all donations, so the effect is a dole-out mentality. The stocks were wasted. Now that there is a threat of scarcity, people are looking into it," Dayrit said.

Drastic cuts in donations of contraceptives would force local governments, who are left to draw up their own population programs and policies, to spend for whatever birth control methods they want to promote.

For her part, a consultant of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday urged businessmen to provide jobs to the "robust population" instead of urging the government to manage the country's population growth.

Jo Imbong, executive secretary of the CBCP legal office and consultant of the Episcopal commission on family and life, reiterated the Church's stand that what the country needed was economic management, not population control.

No population problem

"There is no population problem. We have a healthy population growth for purposes of replacing the aged in this country," Imbong told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"What we'd like . . . is for the business community to create jobs for the working population. We have young people who are diligent, educated, can speak good English, and they are just being taken away by opportunities abroad," she said.

Imbong rebutted charges that Ms Arroyo was doing little about the population explosion because of her fear of the Church, which has been known to campaign against officials promoting artificial contraceptives.

"The President is intelligent. She knows her convictions. She makes decisions based on her expertise, intelligence and faith. She is a Catholic, and she's putting it into practice," she aid.

"That's what our senators and congressmen should do, too," Imbong added.

Business leaders lauded

Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, however, lauded the country's business leaders for pushing for an active population control policy by the Arroyo administration.

Flavier, a former health secretary who got into trouble with the Church for vigorously implementing the family planning program, said the business leaders understood the ramifications of the country's rapid population growth.

"Because they see what's going on, that we have not balanced our numbers with our resources," he said.

Other senators were more supportive of the Church position on the issue.

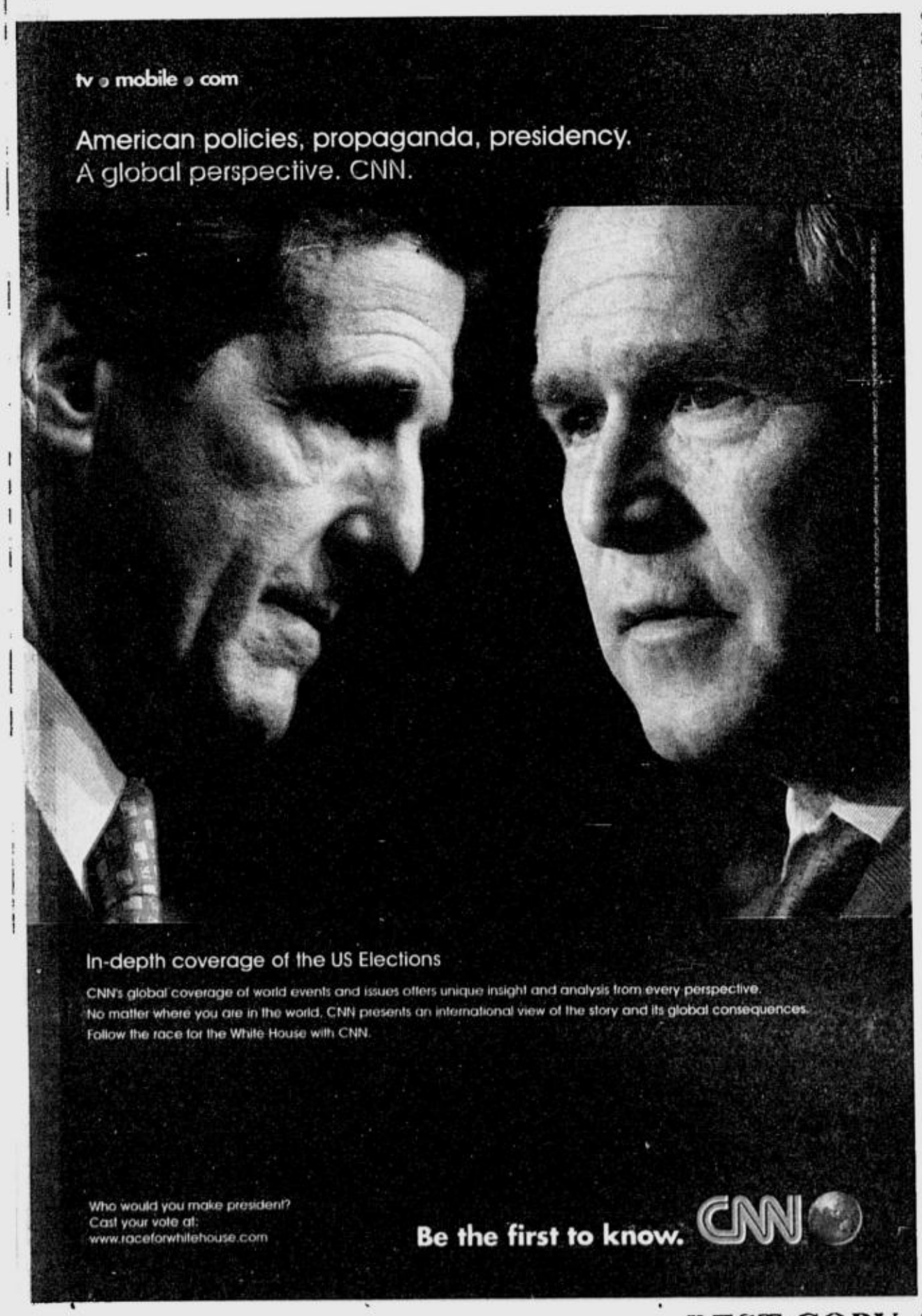
Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who describes himself as pro-life, voiced support for the call made by the businessmen, but said the family planning method should be left to the decision of couples.

Magsaysay said he did not think that the Church was "pressing its way" on the matter.

Policy of foreign nations

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., said that he agreed with Ms Arroyo's stand that there was no way for the country to adopt the population control policies of foreign nations.

"I think we should establish our own population control policy in consultation with the Church and also with the families, as provided in the Constitution," Pimentel said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and AFP*



8 top generals eyed . . .

From page A1

tems (J-11); Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado, assistant to the deputy chief of staff for CMO (J-7), and Col. Claridad Aguilar, assistant to the Judge Advocate General.

Adan said these officials were short-listed based on experience, education, judicial temperament and professional reputation. He said they would also try Maj. Gen. Ralph Flores for falsifying his birthday to extend his service years.

Garcia will be tried for at least three violations of the Articles of War—No. 95, or fraud against the government; No. 96, or conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman; and No. 97, or neglect and disorder to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

The military had earlier said that with Garcia's retirement on Nov. 18, the violations of Articles 96 and 97 would no longer be applied because he would then be considered a civilian and outside military jurisdiction. But AFP officials, citing past jurisprudence, said they could try and convict Garcia for violation of Article 95 even after his retirement.

Both Garcia and Flores are 1971 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. None of the short-listed officials are in that class.

Teodosio, Viernes and Abesamis are members of PMA '72, and Cabalquinto, of PMA '73. Cabuay, Vargas and Honrado were commissioned directly into the military.

Court-martial rules

Under the rules, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya has the sole power to constitute the court-martial and convene proceedings against any officer.

The office of the Judge Advocate General conducts a pre-trial investigation of the officer's case prior to court-martial proceedings. The JAG submits his recommendations to the chief of staff.

"We are now investigating and gathering evidence against these senior officials, and the Judge Advocate General will eventually evaluate this [evidence]," Adan said.

He said the JAG was still determining whether other senior officials would be subjected to the court-martial. But he did not name them.

Only seven officials will compose the court-martial for each case. But if the soldier charged uses his right to peremptory challenge, as in the case of the Magdalo mutineers, any of the seven can be removed and replaced.

An officer is tried by a set of officers senior or equal in rank.

Graft cases are initiated by the AFP's Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability headed by the vice chief of staff. The incumbent is Vice Adm. Ariston de los Reyes, also a member of PMA '71.

The AFP's Inspector General headed by Brig. Gen. Edwin Galzote, another member of PMA '71, initiates and investigates cases involving operational matters and other violations.

Flores' case, as well as that of Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo of the Air Force, is being investigated by Galzote's office.

The military leadership recently announced that Ocampo, yet another member of PMA '71, had been put under investigation. But no details were given. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49 2 14 19 21 29 32

Police unit to launch e-blotter

By Luige A. del Puerto

IT IS still far from the high-tech world of Scotland Yard or the New York Police, but a local police station is moving in that direction.

The Mandaluyong Police would soon install an e-blotter system as part of the Philippine National Police's efforts toward paperless police work.

Besides the e-blotter, which is considered tamper-proof and is expected to result in truer-to-the-picture crime reporting, the city police has also bought a webcam, a small camera that is attached to a computer.

Using the webcam, the police would be able to immediately take photos of suspects or criminals for ready dissemination—that is, once the other police stations install a similar system—most likely by email.

A permanent record

"Later on, we will try to have LAN (local area network)," said Sr. Supt. Ericson Velasquez, chief of the Mandaluyong Police.

Under the e-blotter system, the data entered, like name, place and time of a crime's occurrence, could no longer be changed once they are encoded into the computer.

This would help ensure that what is reported by the police at the end of the year is the true crime rate—not a tampered version.

Police are also moving toward using email, to be initially used in disseminating orders from the PNP hierarchy, disclosed Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., chief of the Marikina Police.

A few police chiefs are already computer-literate, but not all police stations have Internet access, and not all policemen know how to operate a computer, much less use the Internet.

Specter of hunger stalks RP jails

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COUNTRY'S prisons have not been spared the twin problems of hunger and poverty, with as many as 14,000 inmates not included in the food payroll for 2004 of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

According to a study on jail conditions in the country commissioned by the Supreme Court, the number of prisoners has been increasing by 12 percent every year, but the budget allocated to the BJMP had not gone up in the past two years.

These are just some of the problems in the country's prisons system included in the study written by Raymund Narag, a former detainee at the Quezon City jail.

The study, done within a seven-month period, describes the dismal plight of the BJMP, and details the conditions inside the Quezon City jail. Narag was detained there for seven years before being acquitted in 2002 for taking part in the killing of a fellow University of the Philippines student.

Speaking at a press conference of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Narag said inmates at the Quezon City jail die at an alarming rate of two to five a week. He added that this was because the jails were congested, with 3, 465 inmates packed into facilities meant for 815. There was also a lack of facilities and resources, including food and medicine.

"This drastic increase in the inmate population, sad to say, never translated to additional resources," he said.

There are around 54,000 inmates under the custody of the BJMP, which had been given a P1.9-billion budget this year, the same budget in 2002 when the jail population was smaller.

At present, each inmate is given a P35 food allowance per day, or P11.60 per meal. But since the number of prisoners is growing and the budget stays the same, the inmates have no choice but to make do with the dwindling resources. Narag said the lack gave rise to a "self-help" system often headed by the Very Important Preso or "VIP."

A VIP is an affluent inmate who provides money for the maintenance of the cells, food, medicine and other expenses. In exchange, he gets his own room and is allowed luxuries like a TV set.

Such a system, however, is open to abuse and could lead to security lapses, he said. Prison rules are skirted or disregarded altogether, and the VIPs implement their own rules with their own system of punishment.

Jail officials, said Narag, only step in to oversee what is happening when trouble breaks out, but otherwise leave the inmates alone.

Cramped and dilapidated jail facilities are also a problem, since prisoners have no choice but to stay with the sickly, a situation that allows the quick spread of disease like boils and tuberculosis. Medicine is also scarce. In the National Capital Region, only eight doctors attend to 21,000 inmates, according to Narag.

There is also a lack of judges and public lawyers to handle cases, and as a result, inmates stay an average of 3.2 years in jail before their cases are resolved.

This is unfortunate, considering that a Supreme Court survey had shown that only 18 percent of inmates are found guilty, Narag added.

He also attributed the congestion to the passage of the Comprehensive Drug Law in 2002 lowering the threshold for a non-bailable drug offense.

To address the problem, Narag suggested the passage of a Pre-Trial Release Program Bill that would allow certain suspects to be spared jail time and instead be placed under an officer's supervision while the trial is ongoing.

Such a bill would not only lessen the number of prisoners and save money, it would also allow suspects to function as productive members of society instead of wasting their potential.

"If you should punish us, punish us in the correct and proper way," Narag said.

"Punish us with loving justice, one that would make us reform our ways and prepare us for our return to the mainstream when we are released from prison," he ended.

PIPE DREAM EDWIN BACASMAS
Workers contracted by the Manila Water Company take a break from digging along a street in Barangay Valencia in Quezon City. The water firm has embarked on a multibillion-peso service expansion and improvement project to better serve its clients.

Teen in Martinez slay freed

By Leila B. Salaverria

A TEENAGER who was arrested earlier in connection with the daring slay of Manila Police Supt. Manolo Martinez has been released by the police for lack of evidence that would link him to the crime.

The 15-year-old boy was one of two men caught by police in Lower Tawi-Tawi, Caloocan City, during a pre-dawn raid the other day.

"We released him because he was not positively identified by witnesses," said WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

But the other arrested suspect, Jun Felizardo, will remain under detention. A witness had identified him as one of the men who attacked Martinez.

Police also said Felizardo was involved in planning the ambush, and tagged him as a primary suspect. The witness picked him out from a lineup of 12 men.

Martinez, a veteran Manila policeman, died from several gunshot wounds in the chest and back at the parking lot of the Sta. Mesa police station on Monday. Three others were injured in the incident.

A group that called itself Partisano claimed they shot Martinez because the policeman had killed urban poor leaders and attacked protesters. But police officials said drug lords whose operations he had disrupted could have ordered the killing.

Martinez' wife, Lucila, had said earlier that lawmen were also possible suspects.

Manila principal goes on leave

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE SCORECARD reads 1-0.

Teachers and students of a Manila high school yesterday felt they scored a point in the long-drawn battle with their principal, whom they have been wanting to boot out of her post.

Lakandula High School, a public school on Juan Luna Street in Tondo, Manila, returned to normal yesterday as classes resumed following a one-day suspension.

Classes were disrupted Wednesday when teachers and students walked out of their classes to seek the ouster of school principal Alice Blas, whom they accused of abuse of authority after she privatized the school canteen.

"We are rejoicing, and the students are so happy because she [Blas] would be gone for some time," said Grace dela Cruz, a teacher who was among those who led a peaceful protest against Blas.

One week

Blas did not report for work yesterday. Teachers learned that she had filed a leave of absence and would be gone until Oct. 26, said dela Cruz.

The teachers said they would launch other protest gimmicks when Blas returns.

"This is just half of our victory. We will push through with our call to oust her when she comes back," said dela Cruz in a phone interview.

Blas did not answer calls made by the INQUIRER to her mobile phone. She, however, sent a text message.

"I filed a leave to rest. I will be on leave until next week," said Blas.

The principal's lawyer, Maria Rosario Galit, had said the contract to operate the canteen was valid.

Anfernee needs your help

AT THREE years old, Anfernee Seth de Guzman is already racing against time.

Born with biliary atresia, a rare liver condition in which bile ducts are absent, Anfernee needs to undergo a liver transplant before the year ends to save his life.

His parents Warlito and Paulita said he was diagnosed with biliary atresia when he was a month old.

A Kasai procedure, wherein doctors cut a small portion of his small intestine and attached it to his liver to allow bile to flow out, served him well for two years.

However, Anfernee is now exhibiting signs of liver failure, Paulita told the INQUIRER.

They are now asking readers to help them raise P3 million for a liver transplant.

Donors may reach the family at 2342 Onyx St., La Paz Village, Makati City, or through 0916-2830046 and 0916-3092792 or landline 899-4343.

Donations can also be deposited to Metrobank account no. 3286-09085-1 with account name Paulita de Guzman ITF Anfernee Seth de Guzman or to Paulita's BPI savings account no: 3765-0468-81. *Jocelyn Uy*

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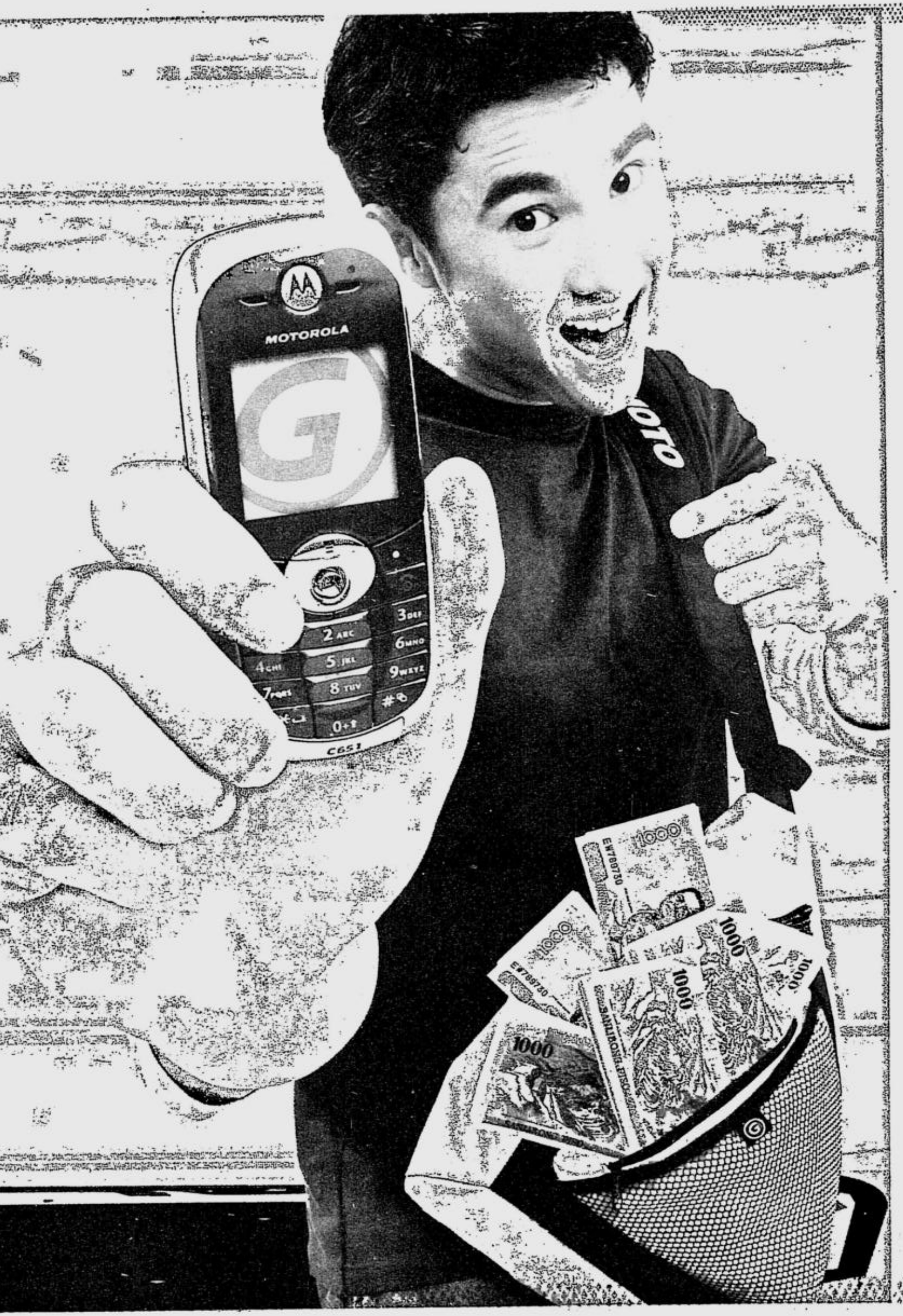

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New POC post for Dayrit–Peping

By Marc Anthony Reyes

COJUANGCO

DAYRIT

PDI PHOTOS

IF THE incoming Philippine Olympic Committee president were to have his way, outgoing head Celso Dayrit would remain in the local Olympic body as chair emeritus.

The new position was suggested the other day by equestrian president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., who is now set to take over the POC presidency unopposed after Dayrit officially announced yesterday his decision not to seek reelection in next month's poll.

"He (Dayrit) has started something for the SEA Games and the change of leadership need not be completely new," said Cojuangco after Wednesday's Philsoc meeting. "We need to be reminded of certain things and certain obligations that need to be met."

Dayrit's decision to bow out of the POC race came a day after he relinquished his position to Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan as president of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) which is overseeing the country's preparation for the hosting of the SEAG next year.

He also moved for the appointment of Cojuangco as Philsoc vice chair to validate the former Tarlac congressman's role as major fund-raiser for the SEAG. "At least now that I'm the vice chair, I will have an authority when I reach out to friends for help," he said.

Citing the need for all to work together, Dayrit, who is also the president of the SEAG Federation, said he now holds the greater responsibility of ensuring the continued success of the SEA Games program.

"The objectives of the SEA Games are of greater importance than anyone's interest in the POC," Dayrit said. "To ensure the success of the Games, all concerned officials should play their respective roles on the team."

Dayrit is concurrently chair of the SEAG executive committee, which is the management body of the Federation. He also recently became the first Filipino vice president of the Olympic Council of Asia.

Cojuangco's supporters said Dayrit had expressed his wish to withdraw from the Nov. 27 elections last weekend. But Cojuangco, a former president of bowling and golf, stressed that there was no "exchange deal" forged between him and Dayrit.

Sources said the POC polls would still take place for positions where there are contending parties.

In Cojuangco's ticket are taekwondo's Robert Aventajado as chair, weightlifting's Rep. Monico Puentevella as first vice, judo's Reynaldo Jaylo second vice, wushu's Julian Camacho treasurer and sepak takraw's Mario Tanchangco as auditor.

Seeking board seats are badminton's Edgar Aglipay, table tennis' Victor Valbuena, softball's Harry Angping and pencak silat's Jamalul Kiram.

A SEAG advisory committee is also being formed with boxing's Manny Lopez, bowling's Steve Hontiveros, athletics' Go Teng Kok, tennis' Buddy Andrada and golf's Benny Gopez as members.

DOJ order on 'Fil-shams' stumps Eala; solons train guns on teams

By Jasmine W. Payo

A NEW order from the Department of Justice (DOJ) has left Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala puzzled.

Eala admitted he was stumped by a one-page letter from Justice secretary Raul Gonzalez Wednesday requesting the PBA to submit a list of other foreign-born players suspected to have falsified their citizenship documents.

"We don't know what he means by that order. We can only give him a list of all the Fil-Ams. But I don't think we can pinpoint people who are suspected to have questionable documents. We don't want to unduly threaten any of our Fil-Ams," said Eala.

"It's not our job. As far as we're concerned, all the documents submitted to us were from the government. And that's what we've been asking the DOJ—we want them to tell us whose documents are authentic," he said.

The DOJ is no longer just looking for foreign-born cagers who faked their papers to acquire Filipino citizenship.

The department has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to form a special panel to go after and press charges against those who had aided the cagers prepare their fake documents.

"It is beyond our jurisdiction. We can't stop the DOJ, the NBI or any government agency from doing what they want to do. But I don't think there's a wide-spread conspiracy," said Eala.

"The only thing I'm appealing for is a little sobriety and reason. Let's not make this a circus. People should not ride on

DOJ/ A28

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RP lady golfers struggle

THE PHILIPPINE women's squad struggled on opening day of the Women's World Amateur Golf Team Championship with a 159 and found itself in 32nd place out of 48 teams at the Rio Mar Country Club in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Jayvie Agojo made a good account of herself with a one-over 73 but Lora Roberto turned in a forgettable 86 in the three-to-play, two-to-count format. Anya Tanpinco didn't count with an 87.

The Filipinos stood 22 strokes off Canada, which pooled a 137 to seize a two-stroke lead over the United States and five over Korea, which had 139 and 141, respectively.

Chinese Taipei came in fourth at 143, followed by Germany, Spain and Sweden in joint fifth at 144.

Defending champion Australia was tied for 22nd with a 152.

Agojo was tied for 19th spot in the individual race, 6 strokes behind Mary Ann Lapointe, who scored a championship record round of 67.

Forward Taguig-Cebu Tribes title series unfolds

TAGUIG—Two teams with contrasting styles—Forward Taguig and Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes)—will slug it out for the first NBC (National Basketball League) national title in a best-of-three series starting at 6 p.m. today at the C.F. Tinga Memorial Hall here.

Taguig loves to play deliberate basketball because by keeping the scores low, it increases its winning chances.

The Skygo-backed Cebuanos, on the other hand, love to run and keep the scoring high.

Game 2 of the series sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten is set on Monday in Cebu City.

Taguig swept highly rated Laguna Spring, 58-56 and 80-66, to bag the North division title, while the Tribes came back from an 87-93 loss in Game 1 to sweep the next two, 105-86 and 85-82, and clinch the South crown.

Even the opposing coaches—Taguig's Danny Gavieres and Cebu's Al Solis—have contrasting styles.

Gavieres, who steered the FEU Tamaraws to the UAAP title in 1997, is temperamental and volatile, while Solis, a former top point guard in the PBA, is unassuming and a consummate tactician who scouts his opponents well and breaks down plays.

Gavieres, who is the leading 'contender for the NBC Coach of the Year award, is expected to bank on Jimboy, Robillos, Ogie Gumatay, Mike Roldan, Andrew Cruz, Chris Quimpo, Jerome Reyes, Leo Villar and Bernard de Guia.

Leading the Cebuano team of businessmen Lito Gillamac, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado are Jojo Tangkay, Ruben dela Rosa, Ardy Larong, Ronald Bucao, Chico Lanete, Alfie Grijaldo, Dennis Concha and Marvin Mercado.

TNT, Coca-Cola clash sans their stars today

By June Navarro

TALK 'N Text is hurting and complaining with its franchise player under suspension, while Coca-Cola is resigned to losing a tireless star.

How they plan to cope with their respective losses will be known today when the defending champion Phone Pals collide with the Tigers in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Philsports Arena.

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia Realty
7:20 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N Text

Due to an injunction he secured last year from a Manila regional trial court, the Department of Justice held in abeyance its order for the deportation of Phone Pal Asi Taulava.

But commissioner Noli Eala suspended Taulava anyway, saying the Fil-Tongan was just as guilty as the five based on the DOJ ruling.

But even without the hulking Taulava, the Phone Pals downed Purefoods for a league-leading 4-0 record early this week.

Meanwhile, Purefoods and Sta. Lucia Realty try to arrest their skid in the curtain raiser at 4:30 p.m., with the Realtors hoping to score a breakthrough victory after losing their first three games.

The TJ Hotdogs have lost back-to-back games after a 2-0 start.

Taulava's suspension drew the ire of Talk 'N Text officials, with TNT governor Ricky Vargas blasting Eala for suspending last year's Most Valuable Player.

Asked if Vargas would be penalized for his statements, Eala said: "A governor can only be sanctioned by the board. I'm sure Mr. Vargas knows the implications of his statements."

"Just as he has made me responsible for my decision, he has got to be answerable for his remarks," Eala added.

Meanwhile, Rodney Santos poured in 14 of his 22 points in the fourth, including Ginebra's last seven markers as the Kings beat FedEx, 126-121, in a high-scoring out-of-town match in Dipolog City.

Mark Caguioa also helped Ginebra win as he scored 23 of his 39 points in the first half of the match made possible by Lactovitale, the official food supplement of the PBA road show.

Coke, Shell at Robinson's

The mall-hopping PBA's One-on-One at Robinson's promo tour goes to Sta. Rosa, Laguna and Metro East with the Coca-Cola Tigers guesting at Robinson's-Sta. Rosa and the Shell Turbochargers mingling with the fans at Robinson's Metro East tomorrow.

MIKE Cortez (left) of Alaska defends the ball against Cyrus Baguio of Red Bull. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PBL to honor taekwondo jin Rivero

FOR A change, the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) honors a taekwondo jin who did the country proud in the last Olympic Games in Athens, Greece when its 2004 season kicks off with the Open Championship tomorrow at the Pasig Sports Center.

Mary Antoinette Rivero will be the league's special guest in the opening rites that begins at 1 p.m.

The 16-year-old junior high at the Dominican School came within one win of making it to the finals of the women's under-67 kg in the Athens Games, but lost to hometown bet Elisavet Mystakidou in a controversial bout, 2-3.

The league's opener will be carried live over Studio 23. Sexy star Jenny Miller opens the hour-long show with a dance number, followed by a special performance from the Letran cheering squad. K & the Boxers, will be doing the finale.

Incoming league Chair Raymund Yu of Welcoat will declare the games open after the parade of the eight competing teams.

Toyota Otis-Letran tackles multi-titled Welcoat Paint in the 2 p.m. opener. Two hours later, title favorites Magnolia-FEU and Montana collide.

Other teams seeing action are Addict Mobile-Ateneo, ICTSI-La Salle, whose core is composed of reigning UAAP men's basketball champion Archers, and newcomers Granny Goose Tortillos and Air Philippines.

La Salle meets Granny Goose in the next playing date on Tuesday, while Ateneo and Air Philippines tangle in the other half of the doubleheader.

Meanwhile, Nick Giongco of the Bulletin was elected president of the revived PBL Press Corps by acclamation yesterday.

He succeeded Dennis Eroa, now sports editor of INQUIRER Libre, who is Chair Emeritus of the group that covers the PBL.

Also elected were Waylon Galvez of People's Journal (vice president), Aileen Garbin of People's Tonight (secretary), Balita's Russel Cadayona (treasurer) and the Star's Joey Villar (auditor).

Comprising the board of directors are Jasmine Payo (INQUIRER), Christine Moncada (Today), Joel Orellana (Manila Times), Theodore Jurado (Taliba) and Malou Aquino (Abante).

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, Yu and Welcoat Paints co-owner Terry Que attended the affair.

Kudos from Immigration commissioner

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

UNDER ordinary circumstances, the withdrawal of confirmation of citizenship by the Department of Justice to any alien in this country means the immediate deportation of the person concerned. In America or in Japan, for example, they chain you immediately if you are deemed to be an illegal alien and next throw you behind bars. When not in the mood, they'd even manacle you and accompany you to the next available aircraft for deportation to your point of origin—the manacle to be removed only upon disembarkation. The law is applied to everybody, world celebrity or not.

But ours is a unique country.

We are lenient.

We dilly-dally.

We exhaust everything if only to observe due process to its fullest—especially if the one affected is a celebrity. Such as a PBA player.

The DOJ did not just order the deportation of one PBA player but five players, with one (Asi Taulava) proving to be untouchable at the moment because of a court injunction he had gotten last year preventing any government agency from touching his citizenship case. Ordered deported for faking citizenship documents to make them Filipinos were Rudy Hatfield, Jon Ordonio, Mick Pennisi, Davonn Harp and Alex Crisano.

If the five do not leave voluntarily, they will suffer the ignominy of getting detained shortly, said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr., who took his oath of office in Malacañang yesterday before GMA, said he was ready to execute the DOJ order anytime.

"We are just threshing out the minor kinks now before we make our move," said Fernandez. "But I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate PBA Commissioner (Noli) Eala for suspending the six players from playing. That move is laudable, indeed, as it instantly enhanced the image of the PBA while, likewise, reinforcing the credibility of the league."

I say, buloy Al can say that again.

***

FILA FRANCHISE. iSport Life, Inc., led by its President Jose Ma. Albert and EVP Maricris Albert, is currently offering franchise opportunities for its existing Fila line of boutiques in the country. Fila, in the Philippines for more than 20 years now, has been one of the nation's best-selling sports apparels. The Alberts (tels 892-1471, 840-4222, [0917-793-1067]) said the minimum investment is P2 million for a period of three years, with a guaranteed regular interest earnings of 20 per cent per annum for three years, not to include an incentive bonus of 3-6 percent per annum in excess of minimum net sales. The investment, net of from P500,000 to P800,000 depending on the location of the boutique, will be returned after three years. Fila has been internationally considered world-class for over 60 years now. It holds licensees to, among other high-impact sports institutions, Ferrari and Ducati. Formula One champion Michael Schumacher of Ferrari wears Fila suits and shoes while racing. Fila is quite expensive. But to the wealthy, nothing is expensive.

***

EXCELLENT ACCEL. Ruben Go is a success story worth telling. Formerly a whiz kid of Rubberworld (remember Kaypee?) before adidas got him to start adidas Philippines in the '90s, Ruben soon found himself putting up his own sports apparel business: ACCEL. Why ACCEL? "It's shortcut for accelerate, which has a very sporting sound," said Ruben, not yet 50 but already an accomplished figure in the sporting business. Starting only with four employees in 1998, he now has close to 50 under his wings. Ruben takes pride in selling ACCEL shoes and apparels much cheaper compared to his branded competitors. "But we have practically the same quality as our products are practically manufactured by the same company," said Ruben. "My dream as a kid was to really sell sports items affordable to our Masang Pilipino, but with the same quality as those being brought here from abroad. I believe I'm starting to realize my dream." Ruben's shining moment thus far was when ACCEL outfitted our Philippine delegation to the Athens Olympics. "Always, I take pride in being part of a sporting campaign abroad. In any way I can, I am always willing to help." On the home front, Ruben regularly hands out ACCEL shoes to several PBA players-for free. "I ask nothing in return from them. I enjoy watching them play just wearing my products," he said.

May your tribe increase, Ruben.

SPORTSWATCH

Team Shotgun Banjo prevails

TEAM Shotgun Banjo and the four Knights downed PCU-Manila, 2-1, in the seventh and final round to capture the title, via tie-break, of the recent MCC Amateur Chess Team Tournament held over the weekend at the 4th floor of J & F Divino Bldg. along Aurora Blvd. in Quezon City. Led by youthful National Master Oliver Barbosa and rising stars 11-year-old Wesley So, 10-year-old Christian Flores and David Elorta, Team Shotgun Banjo and the four Knights collected a total of six match points with five wins and two draws, the same tally posted by Team DAR employees Association (Darea), led by Allan Macala, after seven rounds of play. However, Team Shotgun Banjo and the four Knights emerged champion due to better tie-break points.

Lyceum taps Bonnie Tan

BONNIE T. Tan has been appointed as head coach of the Lyceum Pirates beginning this month. A sports management graduate at New Hampshire College, the 30-year-old Tan formally accepted the offer of Lyceum athletic director Tanny Gonzalez to handle the Pirates "based on our mutual desire to raise the level of competitiveness of the Intramuros-based team." The multi-awarded player-coach from Grace Christian High School will take the place of Leo Austria, who is now coach of the Shell Rimula team in the PBA. Tan attended several coaching and physical fitness programs in the US and Hong Kong. Also the sports director of Grace Christian High School and Step One Basketball Camp co-director with Alfrancis Chua, Tan has extensive experience as player and coach.

SLCUAA cage tourney begins

SAN PEDRO College of Business Administration and St. Francis of Assisi College System-Molino open their title retention bids against separate rivals tomorrow in the 5th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) basketball tournament at the University of Perpetual Help Dalta System-Calamba Gymnasium. The San Pedro Tigers begin their quest for a second straight men's title when they play UPHDS-Molino at 2 p.m. after the game between boys' champion St. Francis Junior Doves and the Colegio San Agustin-Biñan at 12:30 p.m.

Valle not taking Pacquiao lightly

GANDY Valle is not taking boxing champ Manny Pacquiao lightly in their opening round duel in the Motolite Philippine 9-Ball Open on Oct. 25 at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater. "*Pang*-tournament *na ang* strength *ni* Manny (Pacquiao). *Kayang-kaya na n'yang umubos ng bola*," said Valle, a member of the RP Team that demolished Taiwan in their showdown two months ago in Manila. The tournament, also known as Fil-9, runs until Oct. 29 with the organizing Solar Sports airing the games from 2-9 p.m. The other marquee names in the field are top seed Ramil Gallegor, Marlon Manalo, Ronnie Alcano, Warren Kiamco, Antonio Lining, Denis Orcullo and Leonardo Andam. The Fil-9 champion will take home P500,000. *Marlon Bernardino*

CCC hosts Junior Tennis Cup

THE VISAYAS Regional Finals of the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup will be hosted by Cebu Country Club on Oct. 23 and 24. Philta provincial director John Pages said the best junior netters in the region have registered in the event organized by CTW and supported by adidas and Malaysia Airlines. The race for the grand prizes heat up where the National Final champions in the unisex 10-under, boys' and girls' 12 and 14-under divisions would compete in the 2004 Malaysia Junior Tennis Circuit in Penang, Perlis and Langkawi.

LGBA series returns to Roligon

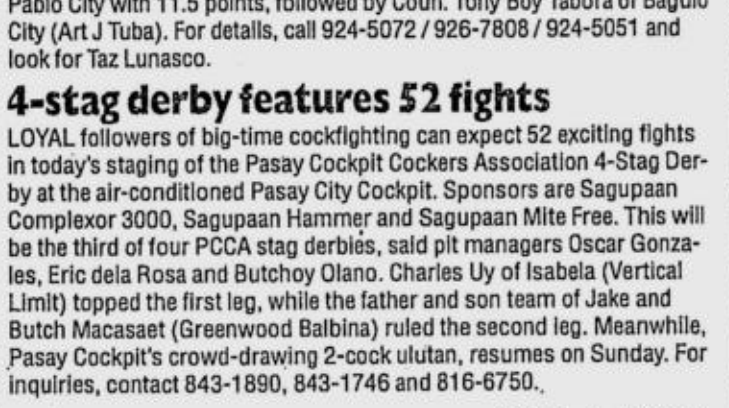
THE LUZON Gamefowl Breeders Association's Stag Series 2004 returns to Roligon Mega Cockpit on Oct. 25 & 27 to settle this year's LGBA Breeder of the Year. Sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds, Vitarich Corp., Lakpue Drug, Inc., Excellence Gamefowl Specialists; Robichem Laboratories and Aavet, Inc., the three-derby competition registered 110 entries and 82 bets on its first and second leg, respectively. Christopher Morales of Marinduque topped the first leg with his entry JJM Sikatuna Farm, while sharing the top honors in the second leg were—Romy Dalmacio (Rambo/2 GBAP), Nancele Balibalos (Cutting Crystal) and partners Carlos Ledesma,Edward Marcos & PJ Tenorio (Genesis 888 Trigger). Breeder of the Year hopefuls are Banahaw II—Benjie Lim / Carrie Chua of San Pablo City with 11.5 points, followed by Coun. Tony Boy Tabora of Baguio City (Art J Tuba). For details, call 924-5072 / 926-7808 / 924-5051 and look for Taz Lunasco.

4-stag derby features 52 fights

LOYAL followers of big-time cockfighting can expect 52 exciting fights in today's staging of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association 4-Stag Derby at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Hammer and Sagupaan Mite Free. This will be the third of four PCCA stag derbies, said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Charles Uy of Isabela (Vertical Limit) topped the first leg, while the father and son team of Jake and Butch Macasaet (Greenwood Balbina) ruled the second leg. Meanwhile, Pasay Cockpit's crowd-drawing 2-cock ulutan, resumes on Sunday. For inquiries, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

RACING AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Nico's In Charge 2. Galaxy Wars 3. Miracle Music 4. Firehouse 5. Ancestral Home 6. Ginja
Race 2—1. Renegade 2. Namaste 3. Dow Jones 4. Cherry Lane
Race 3—1. Sensational 2. L'Islet Sur Mer 3. Hacker 4. Power Pack
Race 4—1. Security Star 2. Graceful Ann 3. Lord Brian 4. Gigi's Gold
Race 5—1. Batangas Force 2. Timber Eagle 3. Smile of the Wind
Race 6—1. You and Me 2. Join the Saints 3. Lucky Fil 4. Fancy Free 5. Dalia
Race 7—1. Unbreakable 2. Crystal City
Race 8—1. Plaridel Hero 2. Rock Attack Attack 3. Golden Harry 4. Take A Strike 5. Clarize
Race 9—1. Say It's True 2. Dennis D'Menace 3. Heartland 4. Sham Sham 5. Mika's Pride



AUSSIE JOCKEYS: Visiting Australian jockeys (from right) Bernadette Cooper, David O'Heare and Alana Dawn Sansom show their riding permits handed them by Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag (left) yesterday. Cooper, O'Heare and Sansom are riding today during the Klub Don Juan de Manila Derby racing festival at the San Lazaro Leisure Park. Also shown are commissioners Eduardo Domingo Jr. and Rogelio Tandiama.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Del Rosario, King clinch WC berths

ASIA'S top female bowler, Liza del Rosario, and veteran Chester King earned the right to represent the country in the World Cup international finals Wednesday by bagging the local ladies' and men's titles at Paeng's Estwood Bowl.

Del Rosario whipped surprise finalist Apple Posadas, 2-1 (203-183, 181-192, 200-138), in the ladies' finals while King outsteadied Joonee Gatchalian, 2-1 (178-181, 223-200, 255-236), in the men's showdown.

Reigning World Cup champion CJ Suarez was knocked out by King, 2-1 (200-194, 184-211, 223-192), in the quarterfinals, while Jojo Canare, who placed third in last year's international finals in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, fell to Posadas, 0-2 (171-209, 191-203), in the semis.

Suarez and Canare thus lost their respective chances to make their third straight international finals appearance.

Four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno hurdled his quarterfinals opponent, Benshir Layoso, 2-1 (211-159, 198-244, 246-158), but was swept by Gatchalian, 0-2 (195-214, 194-218), in the semis.

Del Rosario advanced to the finals after knocking out Dinah Basuel, 2-0 (278-180, 211-160), and Ellen Ramos, 2-0 (203-186, 202-178), in the quarters and semis, while Posadas began her sensational showing by upsetting Irene Benitez, 2-1 (173-188, 172-180, 166-203), before beating Canare.

DEL ROSARIO

King followed up his victories over Suarez with a 2-0 romp over Benny Dytoc (207-206, 279-203) in the semis.

Canare and Ramos gained the semifinals by topping Pinky Buenaflor and Vilma Fabros, respectively. Canare and Ramos won both by 2-0 scores.

The international finals is slated Dec. 5 to 12 at Safra Clubhouse in Telok Blangah, Singapore.

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Sox make baseball history

Boston authors fall of 'empire' with amazing comeback

NEW YORK—Just three outs from getting swept out of the AL championship series three nights earlier, the Red Sox finally humbled the dreaded Yankees, winning Game 7 in a 10-3 shocker Wednesday night to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason series deficit.

Cursed for 86 years, these Red Sox just might be charmed.

"All empires fall sooner or later," Boston president Larry Lucchino said.

There is no torture this time, no hour of humiliation. Better yet for Boston fans, it's the Yankees who are left to suffer the memory of a historic collapse.

"It's very amazing," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Boston didn't need any of the late-inning dramatics that marked the last three games, leading 6-0 after two innings.

David Ortiz, the series Most Valuable Player, started it with a two-run homer in the first innings off broken-down Kevin Brown, and Johnny Damon quieted Yankee Stadium in the second with a grand slam on Javier Vazquez's first pitch.

After Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter sparked hope of a comeback with a run-scoring single in the third, Damon put a two-run homer into the upper deck for an 8-1 lead in the fourth.

Derek Lowe, pitching on just two days' rest, silenced the Yankees' bats and their boasting fans, who just last weekend assumed New York's seventh pennant in nine years was all but a lock. He allowed one hit in six innings. Pedro Martinez started the seventh, his first relief appearance in five years, and immediately sparked chants of the now famous "Who's Your Daddy?"

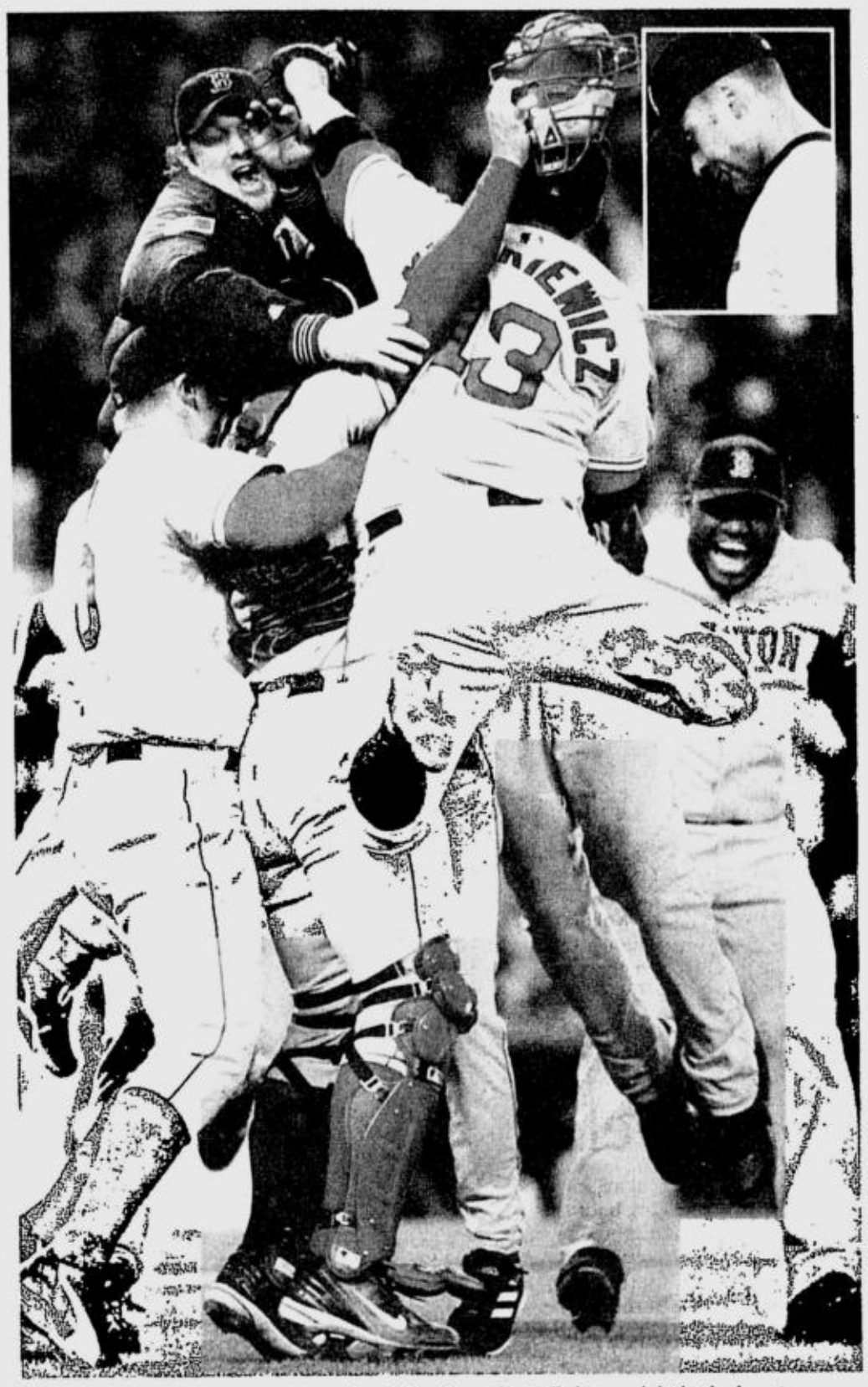
Three hits and two runs got the crowd going, but the rally stopped there and Mark Bellhorn added a solo homer in the eighth for a 9-3 Boston lead.

Cheering from Red Sox fans could be heard in the ninth, and when pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra grounded to second baseman Pokey Reese for the final out, Boston players ran onto the field and jumped together in a mass huddle.

"The greatest comeback in baseball history," Red Sox owner John Henry said.

Yankees players slowly walked off, eliminated on their home field for the second straight season.

"They had a lot of heart. They never gave up," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.



HEAVEN—for the Boston Red Sox—is celebrating a Game 7 victory right in the heart of Yankeedom, chasing away ghosts of past failures at Yankee Stadium and making New York star Derek Jeter (inset) feel like hell. AP

The World Series will start at Boston's Fenway Park on Saturday against St. Louis or Houston of the National League.

Boston can now try to win the Series for the first time since 1918.

The 11th pennant for the Red Sox, the first since 1986, will be remembered as the best for one reason—beating New York in Yankee Stadium, site of last year's Game 7 meltdown.

None of the previous 25 major league teams to fall behind 3-0 even forced a series to seven games. The wild-card Red Sox became only the third of 239 teams in the four major North American leagues to overcome a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series and win, joining the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs and the 1975 New York Islanders. *AP*

A-Rod: 'I'm embarrassed right now'

NEW YORK—It's hard to believe the fabled New York Yankees could come apart in such an epic collapse.

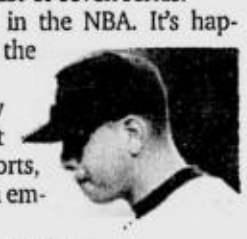
Right here, at their hallowed home, in the shadow of all that history, all the monuments, all the championship banners.

"I'm embarrassed right now," Alex Rodriguez said.

After 86 years of domination in baseball's most bitter rivalry, the Yankees finally folded against the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday.

This was much more than a season-ending defeat—it was an unprecedented choke job. Just three outs from a sweep on Sunday, the Yankees dropped four games in a row, becoming the first team in postseason baseball history to blow a 3-0 lead in a best-of-seven series.

It's never happened in the NBA. It's happened only twice in the NHL.



And now the New York Yankees, the most storied team in all of sports, are right at the top of an embarrassing list.

"I could care less about that," captain Derek Jeter said. "I don't know how you can rank failure. You win or you lose."

It will be a painful piece of infamy for everyone in pinstripes. And it will certainly bring the wrath of owner George Steinbrenner this winter—probably sooner.

When pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra grounded to second for the final out, the Red Sox rushed to the mound and celebrated their trip to the World Series in the middle of Yankee Stadium. Boston fans chanted and cheered behind the third-base dugout.

RODRIGUEZ AFP

It was a sight many New York fans thought they'd never have to witness. The Yankees are the team that pulls off improbable comebacks—especially against Boston. Not this time.

Jeter missed the party on purpose.

"I don't really want to watch another team celebrate," he said.

But A-Rod soaked it all in: "Obviously, that hurts—watching them on our field celebrating."

"History would have told them to give up. It didn't matter to them," Gordon said. "They didn't just fold the tent." *AP*

SOARING HIGH: The Ateneo Blue Eaglets basketball squad pose after bagging the junior crown of the 67th UAAP. The Eaglets are Mike Gamboa, Jai Reyes, Joboy Tuason, Jerome Santos, Raymind Austria, Tonyo Silva, Carlo Medina, Pao Dizon, Jot Manlapaz, Mike Fernandez, Pivie Nadal, Ralph Balmaceda, Anton Perez, Miguel Abellada, Gian Chiu and Gio Tingson. The coaching staff is composed of coach Jamike Jarin, assistant coaches Epok Quimpo, Andrew Cruz, Sonny Tadeo and Eman Nazareno, trainer Julio Veloso, team manager Mico Halili, and student managers Marco Ortiz, Erick Bugia and Vince Tuason.

Cardinals force a Game 7

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Jim Edmonds blasted a two-run walk off home run in the 12th to lift St. Louis Cardinals past Houston, 6-4, and force a decisive game seven in the National League Championship Series.

"I finally hit the barrel after two weeks of struggling. I was just trying to put the ball in play," Edmonds said.

Houston pitcher Dan Miceli (0-3) started the 12th after Astros closer Brad Lidge continued his dominant playoff with three perfect innings.

Miceli (0-3) walked St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols on four pitches and retired Scott Rolen on a popout before Edmonds crushed a 0-1 pitch over the wall in right field, touching off a wild celebration at Busch Stadium.

"I figured if I could hit something hard in the gap or another base hit, (Albert Pujols) would run hard to get to third and we would get a chance to score somehow," Edmonds said.

"So that's it. I was just looking for a ball to get a good swing at. I wasn't trying to go deep. I was trying to hit the ball hard." Said Miceli, "I just got a few pitches up, I'm going through a tough stretch."

Fined a reported $10,000 by Major League Baseball for his actions after allowing a go-ahead homer to Carlos Beltran in Game Four, Julian Tavarez fractured two bones in his left hand in what the team termed "a postgame incident."

With his availability for the rest of the series in doubt, Tavarez was pressed into action when St. Louis closer Jason Isringhausen blew a save in the ninth.

After Isringhausen got through the 10th, Tavarez (2-1) retired all six batters he faced.

"Once I walked out of the bullpen, I wasn't thinking about my hand," Tavarez said. "I put it out of my mind and just concentrated on pitching. I got some shots to keep my hand numb. I (had) a couple shots and some pills." *AFP*

DOJ order stumps Eala

From page A25

issues like this," said Eala.

Yesterday, Congressmen Francis Nepomuceno (Pampanga) and Felix Alfelor (Camarines Sur) urged Gonzalez to file criminal charges against basketball teams, agents and managers who recruited the five players now undergoing summary deportation proceedings after faking their citizenship papers.

Nepomuceno noted that two of the five—Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola and Red Bull's Mick Pennisi—represented the country in the Asian Games. Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text, another Asian Gamer, was also recommended for deportation but the DOJ couldn't touch him because of an earlier injunction he secured from a Manila Regional Trial court last year.

The other players are Red Bull's Davonn Harp and Jon Ordonio and Ginebra's Alex Crisano.

"This is a very serious blow against the dignity of our country because we are now confronting a fact that we have been cheating foreign countries [in international competitions]. This could tarnish our image [and we might] be called a nation of cheats," Nepomuceno said.

Horse racing's leading money earners

WHO are the leading money earners in Philippine horse racing?

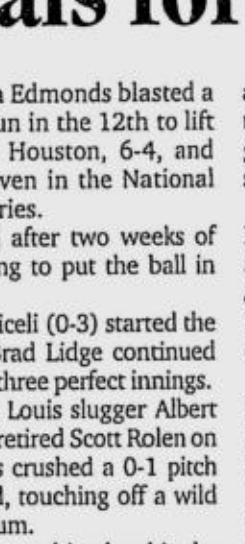
As of Sept. 30, two of the country's most prominent horse owners, Hermie Esguerra and Putch Puyat, are the top money winners, with total earnings of P24,351,542.16 and P13,090,324.24, respectively.

Also in the Top 10 are RD Javier (P10,815,292.69), Franchino Farms (P9,566,749.67), KLN Express (P7,097,672.52), RD Yutadco (P6,936,590.67), Jose Mari Franco (P6,794,143.03), PP Uy (P6,260,777.22). Rounding up the elite list are AG de Ubago Jr. (P5,764,918.89), AF Constantino (P5,631,373.40), MO Trillana (P5,250,725.78), NN Chua (P4,904,562.01), BP Niles (P4,742,565.66), BC Niles Jr. (P4,708,779.67), ER Tagle (P4,708,382.63), Dos Ranchos Jofero (P4,652,410.14) and JL Santos (P4,632,953.01).

These racing millionaires will get another chance at glory on Sunday, Oct. 24, at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, where the Klub Don Juan de Manila will hold its third KDJM Derby Day featuring three world-class jockeys from Australia—two of them women riders—against the Philippines' best.

"We're all set and ready to go," said club president Sonny Arevalo, adding that KDJM, in partnership with Australia's Magic Millions, will also

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

mark the weeklong festival with a first ever International Thoroughbred auction sale today. Some 100 horses will be up for grabs.

The Aussie jockeys who will be strutting their stuff here are veteran internationalists Bernadette Cooper, Alana Dawn Sansom and David O'Heare. They will be pitted against local riders Pati Dilema, JB Hernandez, Jeff Zarate, Manolito Daquis, Dominador Borbe, Jeff Ladiana and Dhunoy Racquel.

Cooper is Australia's top female jockey today. A Macau contract rider, she started her career in 1990 and now has beaten some of the world's top jockeys with her smooth and confident riding style.

Sansom, on the other hand, also boasts a respectable record, having ridden Greg is Great to victory in the prestigious Malaysia Racing Association Cup just last month. The MRA Cup is the Malaysian version of some of the country's major stakes races like the Philippine Presidential Gold Cup and the Marho Breeders' Cup, whose 2004 edition will incidentally be held on Nov. 23-28 at the Santa Ana Park.

O'Heare also carries impressive credentials. A battle-tested jockey, he has won several international races, including the Singapore Lion City Cup, Penang Spring Trophy and Selangor Pialas Emas Trophy, aside from the 1998 Belmont Sprint (Gr. II) and 1999 Winterbotom Stakes (11) race.

It is indeed a banner year for Philippine horse racing. And, as Philracom chair Jaime Dilag had said, the single biggest beneficiary of the racing industry's impressive growth is the government itself, which gets a sizeable share from the taxes derived from the consistent record sales at the San Lazaro Leisure Park and the Santa Ana Park. Thus far, horse racing has given more than P1 billion in revenue to the national coffers.

Dilag also cited the industry players for their full support, mentioning in particular the different racing organizations, stakes race sponsors and the racing pubic as well. And, not to forget top money earners like Hermie Esguerra, owner of super horse Wind blown, and Putch Puyat, president of the much-respected Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, who played stellar roles which led to the success of the industry.

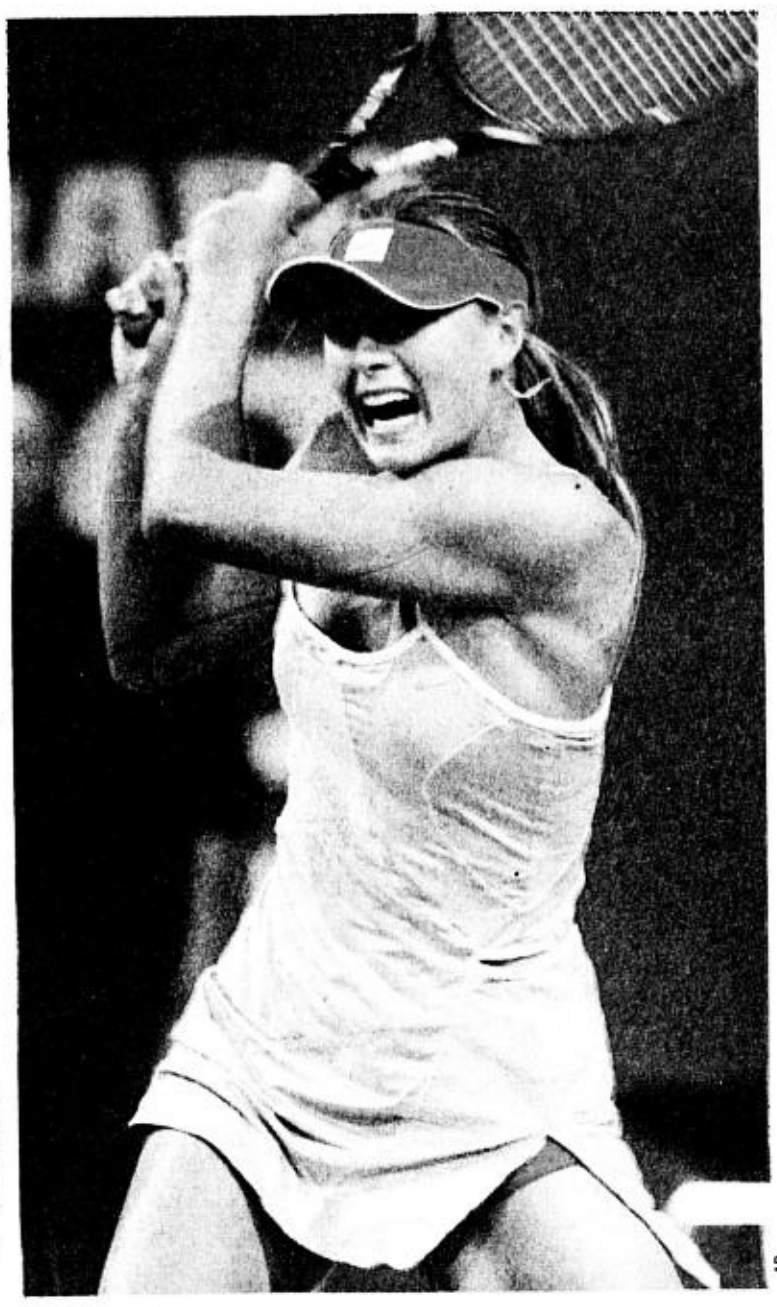
Pinoy Camel riders enter Supercross

THE PHILIPPINES will be sending a lean but mean delegation in Round 4 of the 2004 FIM Asian Championship series set in Macau, China, on Oct. 28-31.

National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association (Namssa) director and FIM-UAM president Macky Carapiet expressed high hopes that the RP team, backed up by Camel, Air Macau and Polisport, will bag the crown in the centerpiece Expert 125 cc and the Junior crown behind Caltex Revtex riders Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres. They will be up against top riders from China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysian, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Mongolia, Guam and the USA.

"We're very thankful to our Namssa partners Camel and Air Macau for helping us carry our mission of producing and developing world-class riders through the years," said Carapiet. "I believe that we stand a good chance of bringing home the top plums. The skill level of our riders has gone up to a more competitive level with the revival of the Camel Supercross Championships to make us a force to reckon with in Asian motocross."

Joining Aguilar and San Andres are Caltex Revtex teammate Bebet de la Cruz also in the Expert 125 class, Cebu's Jonas Adlawan in the 85cc division and 50cc riders Raprar Enriquez of Team Dickies-PAL, siblings Patrick and Jacob Orbe of La Union, Caltex Revtex's Jerick Mitra and Renan Alquizola.



AP

WINNER: Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia during their match at the Swisscom Challenge Tennis Tournament in Kloten, Switzerland, Wednesday. Sharapova won in two sets.

RP whips Denmark

The leaders after six rounds:
Men: 19.0—Ukraine; 18.0—Russia; 17.0—India, Bulgaria; 16.5 —Azerbaijan, Spain A, Armenia, Israel; 15.5—Georgia, Cuba, France, Slovakia; 15.0—Philippines, Poland, Greece, Serbia Montenegro, Argentina, China, Netherlands, England; 14.5 —Singapore, US, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Scotland, Slovenia, Moldova, Sweden, Spain B, Uzbekistan, Hungary.

MALLORCA, Spain—The Philippines, fielding its top players, thrashed Denmark, 3-1, in the sixth round Wednesday and jumped to a share of 13th place in the World Chess Olympiad.

Grandmaster-elect Mark Paragua returned to action and blitzed Grandmaster Lars Schandorff at board three while Jayson Gonzales picked up his fourth win at the expense of fellow IM Nicolai Vesterbaek Pedersen at board four.

With GMs Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio drawing their matches in the top boards, the Filipinos exacted revenge on the 25th-ranked Danish team which beat them two years ago in Bled, Slovenia.

The Filipinos have now amassed 15 points, the same total posted by England, China, Greece, Serbia Montenegro, Argentina, Netherlands and Poland, their next round opponent.

Ukraine edged Azerbaijan, 2.5-1.5, to solidify its hold of the lead with 19 points, a point ahead of defending champion Russia.

The Russians crushed Israel, 3.5-0.5, to leave India and Bulgaria one point behind.

China, the Philippines' main Asian rival, was held to a 2-2 deadlock by Slovakia.

The RP women's team completed a double victory when it upset Turkey, 2-1, to climb to a share of 34th spot.

Two-time national champion Sheerie Joy Lomibao outlasted Women IM Betul Cemre Yildiz while WIM Beverly Mendoza outplayed WIM Corlulu Nilufer Cinar to give the Filipinas a total of 9.5 points, good for a tie for 34th spot in the company of Iceland, Estonia, Greece, Malaysia, Norway and Serbia Montenegro.

Rookie Loreshyl Cuizon suffered her second loss at the hands of Asli Bayrak at board three.

Pacesetting China defeated Russia, 2-1, to bring its total to 16 points, three points ahead of France.

Nearly halfway through the tournament, the 40th-ranked Filipinos are the lowest rated team in the Top 20 standings, ahead of 10th seed United States.

Jao, Mendoza showdown set

ROSARIO, Batangas—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki will go all out for an unprecedented eighth road bike crown in the penultimate leg of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix this weekend, Oct. 23-24, at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Despite losing the last race to Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex, Jao remains on top of the title race with 190 points in the 2004 Shell Advance Superbikes Series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by the PCSO, Pilipinas Shell Corp., Toyota Motors Philippines, Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Motors and MOF Company.

Mendoza is second with 148 points and could overtake Jao if he wins all three races.

BATTLE OF THE COURTS

Central elims for Platinum Cup this weekend

TWELVE courts in Makati, considered as the heart of the raging badminton fever, and those in Mandaluyong and San Juan determine their bets to the national finals in the Central area eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Badminton Cup this weekend at The Zone and Yonex courts.

Manila Polo Club, the facility which has produced some of the country's best smashers, and Powersmash, now the busiest club in the business district, head the cast for the two-day showdown co-presented by INQUIRER Badminton and Globe Platinum.

Also competing are host The Zone, Badminton Central, Metro Badminton, Sheridan, Cool Shots, Shuttle Zone, Fit2Play, Arty, Badminton Xtreme and Shuttle Flight.

Major sponsors include Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Mizuno Badminton and LTime Studio. Nestlé is the official drink provider, Gerflor Taraflex the official mat sponsor and Gosen the official shuttlecock.

Clubs entered will compete in the men's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles. The top two teams in each group after the round-robin eliminations will advance to the crossover semifinals with the winners assured of a finals slot.

All the members of the national champion team will earn a trip to Bangkok.

JVC Intercollegiate badminton Nov. 10

GIANT electronics firm JVC yesterday launched the JVC Open Badminton Intercollegiate Championships with the country's top schools disputing the top purse of P50,000 in each of the three divisions beginning Nov. 10 at Powersmash and ending Nov. 16 at the Glorietta.

The tournament comes on the heels of the successful staging of the JVC Open Badminton Championships in July.

Far Eastern U will be the marked team owing to its title romp in both the men's and ladies' divisions in the eight-school field, but with more teams joining in next month's blue-ribbon event, expect a down-to-the-wire battle for top honors in the men's, ladies and mixed doubles events in the seventh JVC tournament in four years.

"JVC continues its support for the sport after the success of the JVC Open," said Princess Galura. For inquiries, call 725-2568/ 0917 5288970, 753-1286 (IMG), 09185094845, or e-mail jvcbadminton@hotmail.com.

National Extreme 4x4 tournament tomorrow

OFF-ROADING'S brightest stars converge at the Fort Bonifacio Global City on Oct. 23 and 24 for one final time this season to determine the sport's Off-Roader of the Year in the fourth and final stop of the DELO Sports National Extreme 4x4 Series.

The spotlight, as always, falls on the sport's finest drivers, led by overall leader Timtom Gempesaw of the 4-Wheelers Davao and third-leg champion Albert Monte de Ramos of the Cagayan de Oro Off-Road Club.

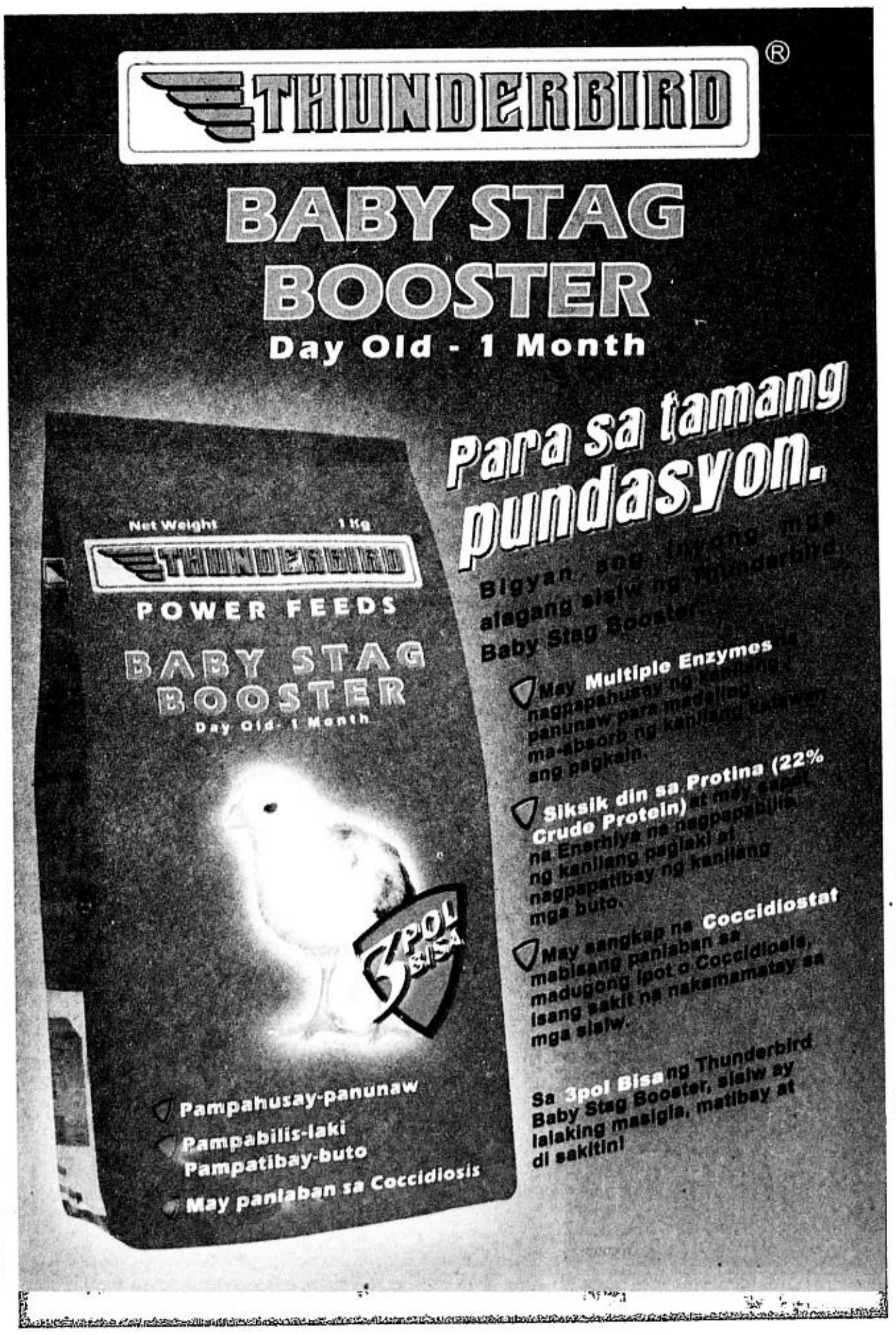
On the strength of a first place showing in the second leg in Cebu City, plus a second-place effort in the third stop in Bicol, Gempesaw has fortified his lead with 184 points, 55 points ahead of second placer CdO's Richard Emano (129).

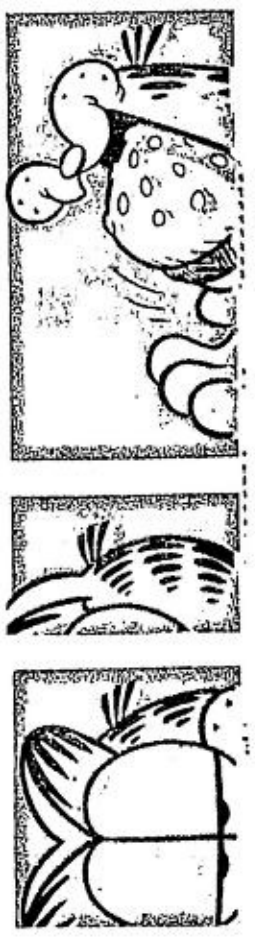
Monte de Ramos moved from fourth to third spot after ruling the third leg with a total of 107.

"After three tough legs of the national series, it all comes down to this one final event, where only the best from among the best will be crowned Off-Roader of the Year," said Dexter Ian Tang, secretary general of the sanctioning National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (NAsFOR).

The 4x4 extravaganza will be hosted by the Suzuki Club of the Philippines headed by Larry Alberto.

A DRIVER negotiates the terrain in the recent DELO Sports National Extreme 4x4 Series.





Velvet Ash: a sexier Joy Division, a happier The Cure

From page A32

Lille: I was in a performance poetry troupe called GaTula—for Galaw, Awit Tula. We performed poetry and acoustic songs in clubs, art galleries, street corners, art festivals.

Good timing made me think this could work. My dad died and I felt so disjointed that all I wanted was to wander the earth and write the great Filipino novel. Instead, I met the band.

How difficult is it to succeed in the US? How supportive have Fil-Ams been?

Lille: We feel out of place in certain venues. That's what it's like being Asian in America, but you learn to deal with it. Are we good musically? We've gone from begging clubs to let us play, to turning [them] down because we're playing back-to-back dates.

We are thankful for the Fil-Am support, but we get a lot of help from non-Filipinos, too. Our producer Alex is half-Indonesian; our stylist Barb is Japanese-Hawaiian; and our roadie Shane, the token white guy—that's a joke!

Have you released an album? Do you plan to perform in Manila?

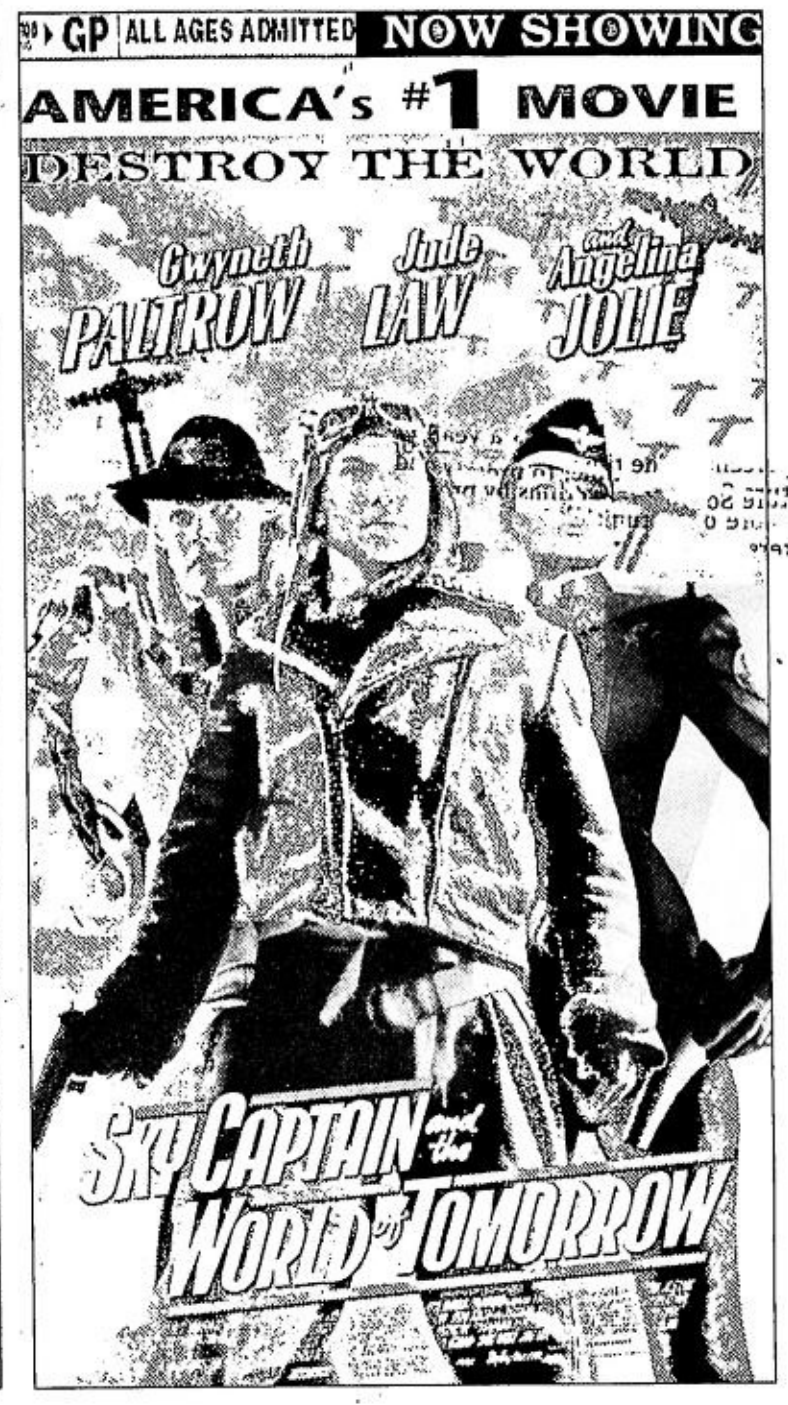
Mabel: We've been circulating a year-old demo but it hasn't been formally released by a label. We definitely want to play in Manila.

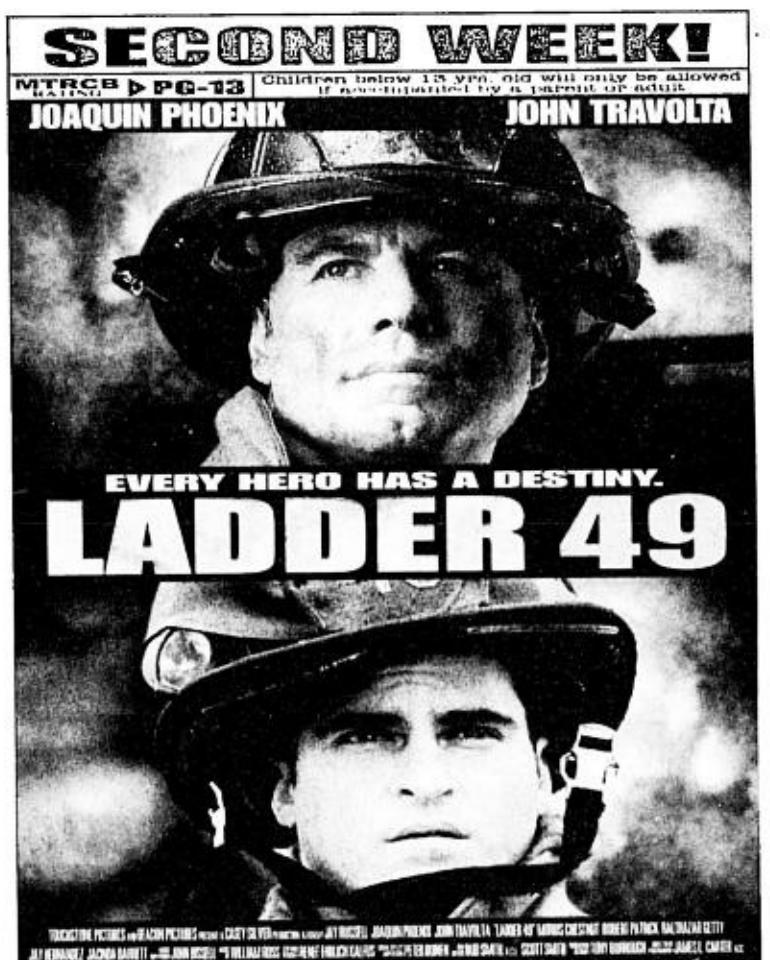
What are the group's immediate goals?

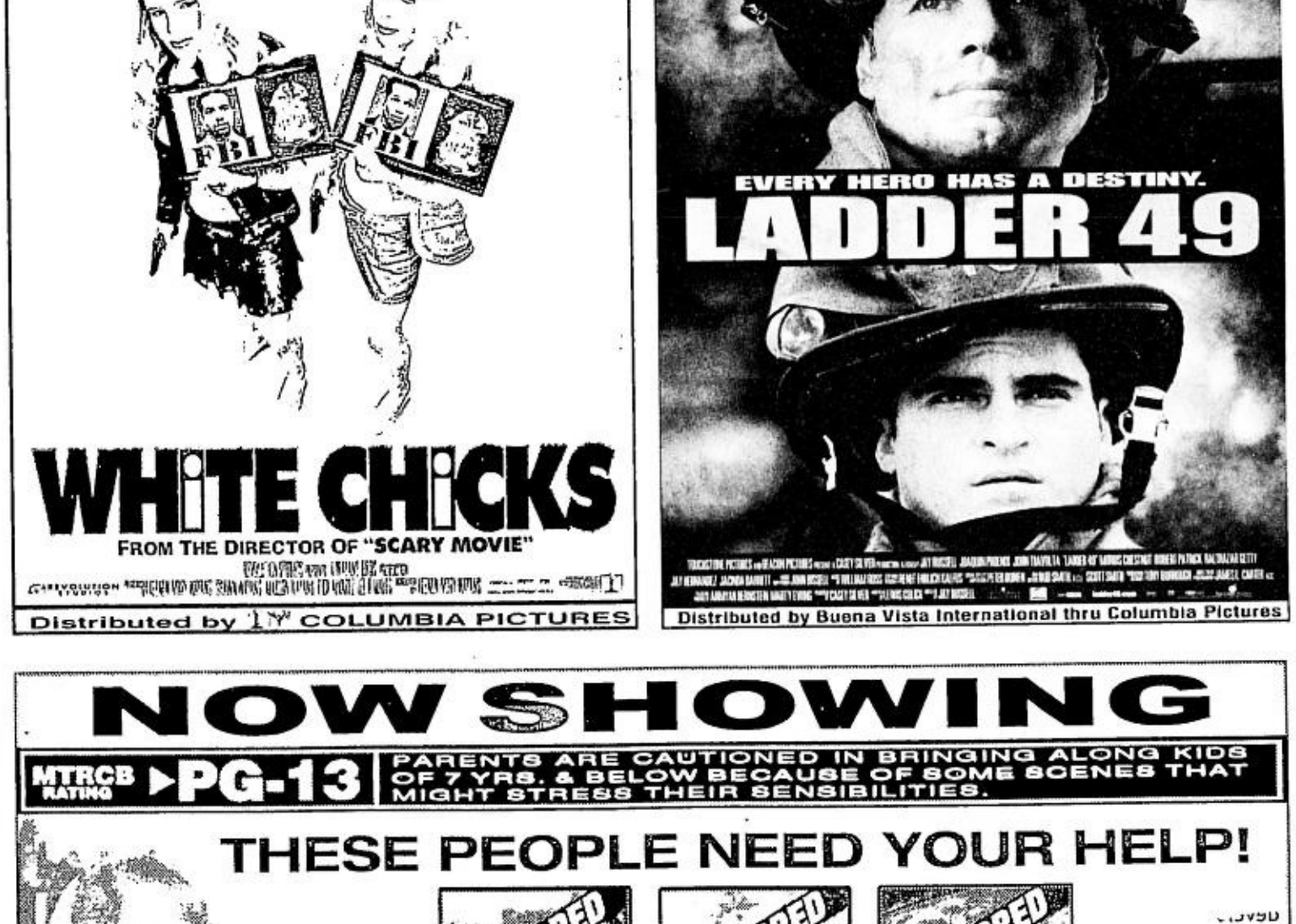
Lille: We're recording new songs by year's end, and planning a mini-tour early to mid-2005. We want to get signed soon so we can quit our day jobs!

Choose a word that best describes The Velvet Ash.

Chie: Dreamy.
Mark: Hypnotic.
Mabel: Lush.
Lille: Shimmery.







How South Korea reenergized its movie industry

OUR RECENT article on our film leaders' efforts to revive and reform the languishing Filipino movie industry elicited a number of reactions. In particular, some readers asked for more specifics about the reforms put in place by the South Korean film industry, which have been held up as possible models for other Asian movie industries, including our own.

From Film Development Council of the Philippines head **Laurice Guillen's** talk at the Asian Institute of Management on Oct. 2, we learned that the current resurgence of Korean movies is the result of a number of coordinated initiatives:

Institution of the "Screen Quota" system. This protectionist film policy requires cinemas to screen domestically produced films 146 days a year, or 40 percent of the time, to protect and nurture South Korean films by providing more opportunities for local filmmakers.

Financial support. The Film Promotion Finance Association has been put up to provide seed money to develop Korean films.

Film Investors' Council—induces private, individual investors' participation in the film industry.

Korean Film Promotion Law. It encourages filmmakers to produce quality movies for worldwide distribution.

Korean Film Council. This government agency is mandated to promote Korean films and develop the South Korean film industry. Its activities are: inducement of private investment for film projects, and operation of various support programs to invigorate film production.

Establishment and operation of the Film Promotion Finance Association. Management of the Namyangju Studio Complex, the leading developer of film-related technologies in Korea.

Management of the Korean Academy of Film Arts. The academy serves as the cradle of education for human resources needed by the film industry.

Provision of financial support for films jointly produced with other countries. Also the granting of certification as Korean films.

Development, investigation and research on policies designed to promote domestic films. And provision of support for the participation of Korean movies in international film festivals and film-based cultural exchanges.

Summing up, the Korean film industry's strengths are human resource development, research and development, film-related laws and policies, proactive and comprehensive government support and funding, and comprehensive promotion of South Korean films worldwide.

Some of these initiatives have proven to be successful in revitalizing Korean films. They could be put in effect in the Philippines, with adjustments made to suit the local situation, of course.

Feedback

FROM **Leah A. Macatangay** of Makati City:

"I wish to commend a parenting program, 'Mommy Academy,' aired on Channel 5 at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. The short but informative show enables mothers here to know more about the parenting styles of other parents; some tips on ailments, and insights into well-adjusted and talented children and their needs. The show features both celebrity and non-celebrity parents, a good combination of lifestyles.

"However the show has too many commercials. There were so many spots in the episode I watched that I had the impression that I was viewing a show of commercials, with a parenting program shown in between, for variety.

"Otherwise, the program is a welcome contribution to the growing number of shows that give parenting the importance it deserves. Considering the importance of the family as the seedbed of responsible and upright individuals and citizens, it's a worthwhile initiative to assist parents in raising their children.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

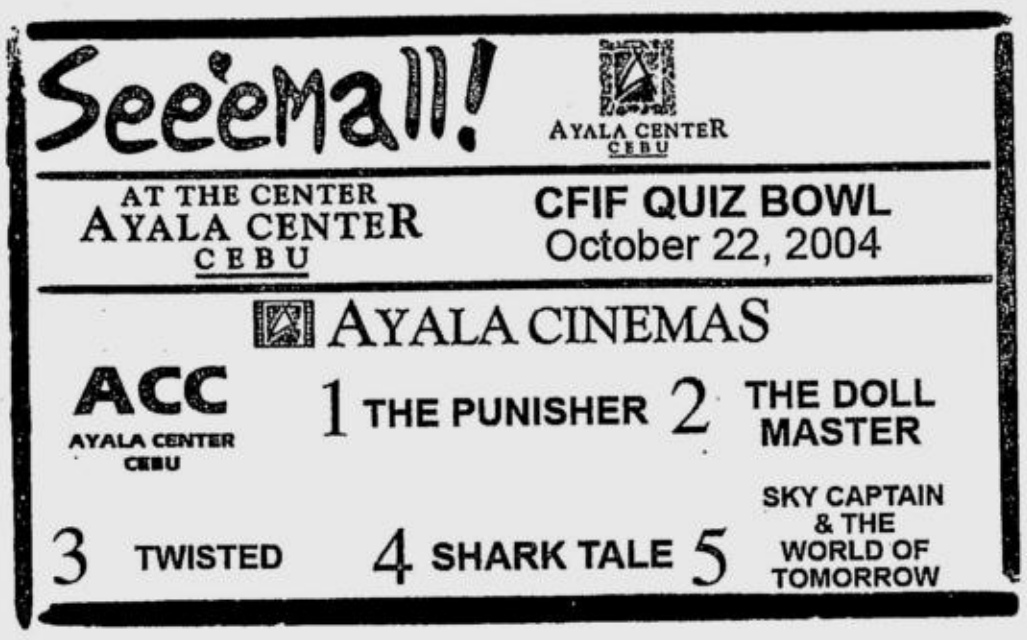
The reforms instituted there are being held up as models for other Asian countries, including the Philippines

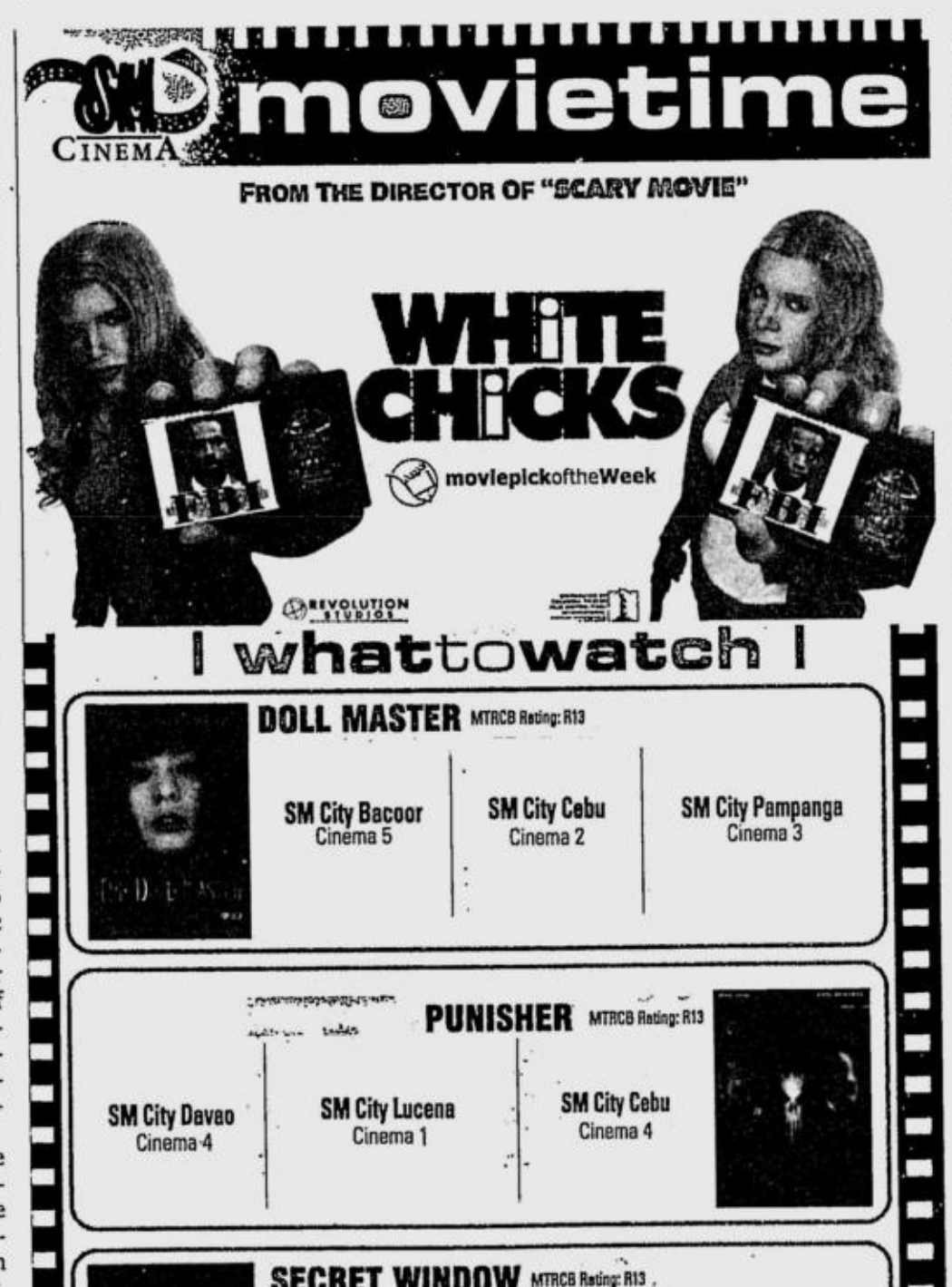
'Before Sunset'

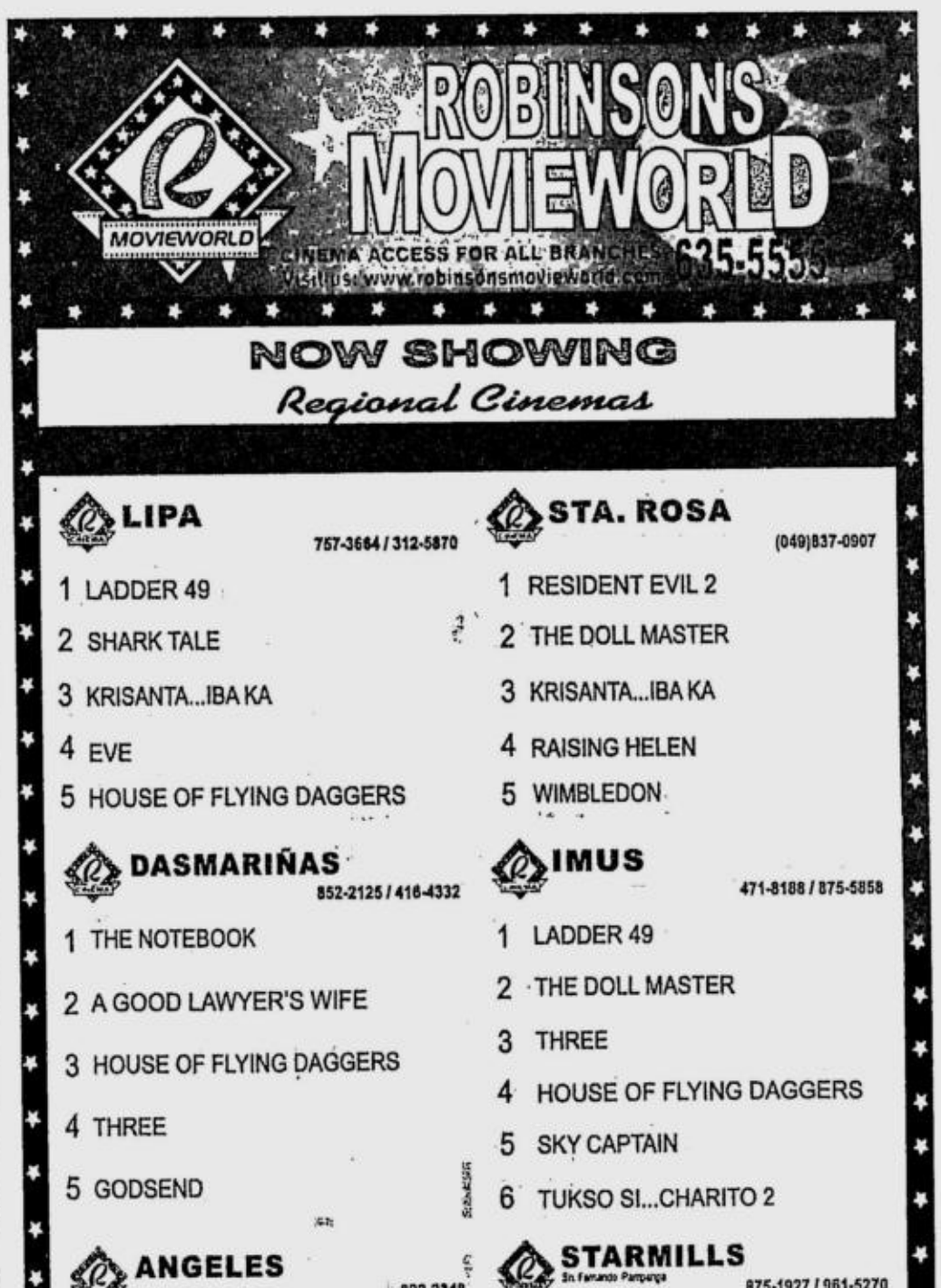
ETHAN Hawke reunites with "Before Sunrise" director **Richard Linklater** and co-star **Julie Delphy** in the film's sequel, "Before Sunset."

Nine years ago, two strangers, Jesse (Hawke) and Celine (Delphy), met by chance in Vienna, spent a night together, and parted before sunrise. Now, they're about to cross paths again—in Paris.

There, they will get the chance we all wish we had—to find out what might have been. The only problem is, they have only a few hours to figure out if they belong together.







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

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Editor Louie C. Camino
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Third incarnation of The Velvet Ash

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

I MAY be listening too much to The Velvet Ash.

When I fired up RealPlayer to listen to the MP3 music I downloaded from their site, my little daughter Sam, all of two years and nine months old, squealed with delight.

A few nights earlier, we were dancing to "All is Forgiven" and other Velvet Ash tunes. Now she sings along whenever she hears that number, and wants me to dance or pretend I'm playing a guitar.

The Velvet Ash is a Filipino band based in Southern California. The current lineup is:

THE VELVET ASH. Mabel, Mark, Jenna, Lille and Chie create a unique sound from numerous influences.

This Filipino band in California has been turning down gigs because now it's playing back-to-back dates

Lilledeshan Bosè (lead vocals, guitar), Mabel Orogo-Cajayon (bass), Chie Orogo (guitar), Jenna Urban (keyboard, vocals) and Mark Roldan (drums).

This is the third incarnation of the band, which siblings Mabel and Chie conceptualized in 2002. Lille—daughter of the late Santiago Bose, 2004 Gawad CCP Para sa Sining Awardee for Visual Arts—was vacationing in California last year when asked to sub for her sister Mutya, who had gone back to the Philippines. In late August 2003, Lille became a permanent member.

The group describes their music: "Sexier Joy Division, or Interpol with a girl singing, or a happy The Cure, with drum beats as snappy as The Police's."

Keyboardist Jenna, the "Asian and Dutch mix," was out of town and could not answer the e-mail questions, but the rest made up well enough for her absence.

How'd you end up with the name Velvet Ash?

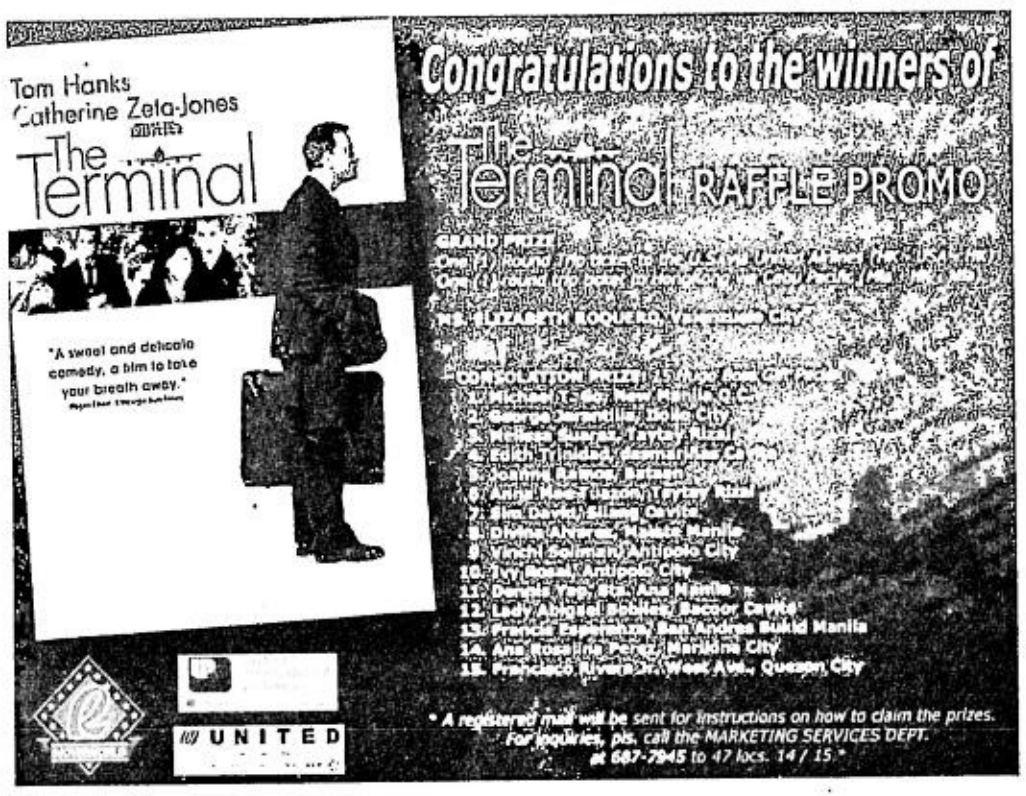
Lille: Mabel stumbled upon it while cleaning make-up counters in 1997. It was an ugly eye shadow color. Later, she Googled the name and found it was the name of a tree.

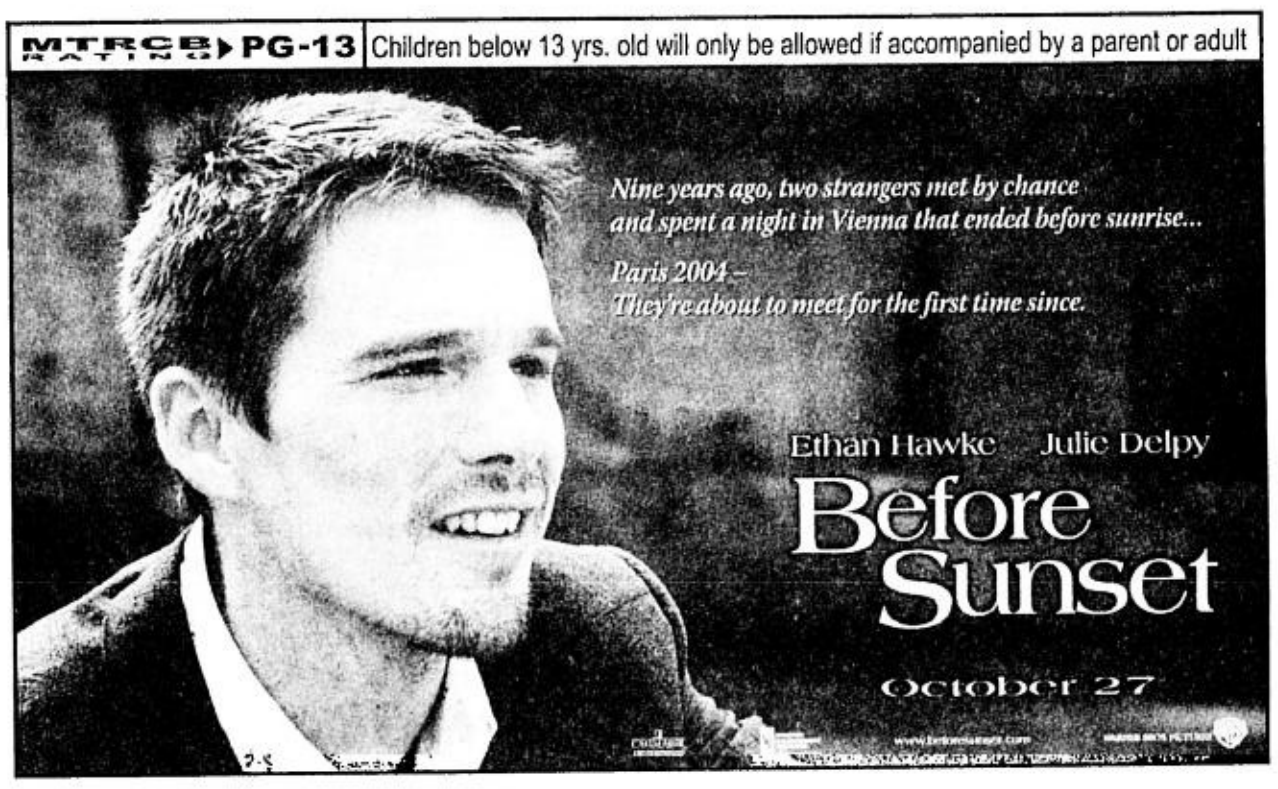
How has the band's several incarnations affected your music and fan base?

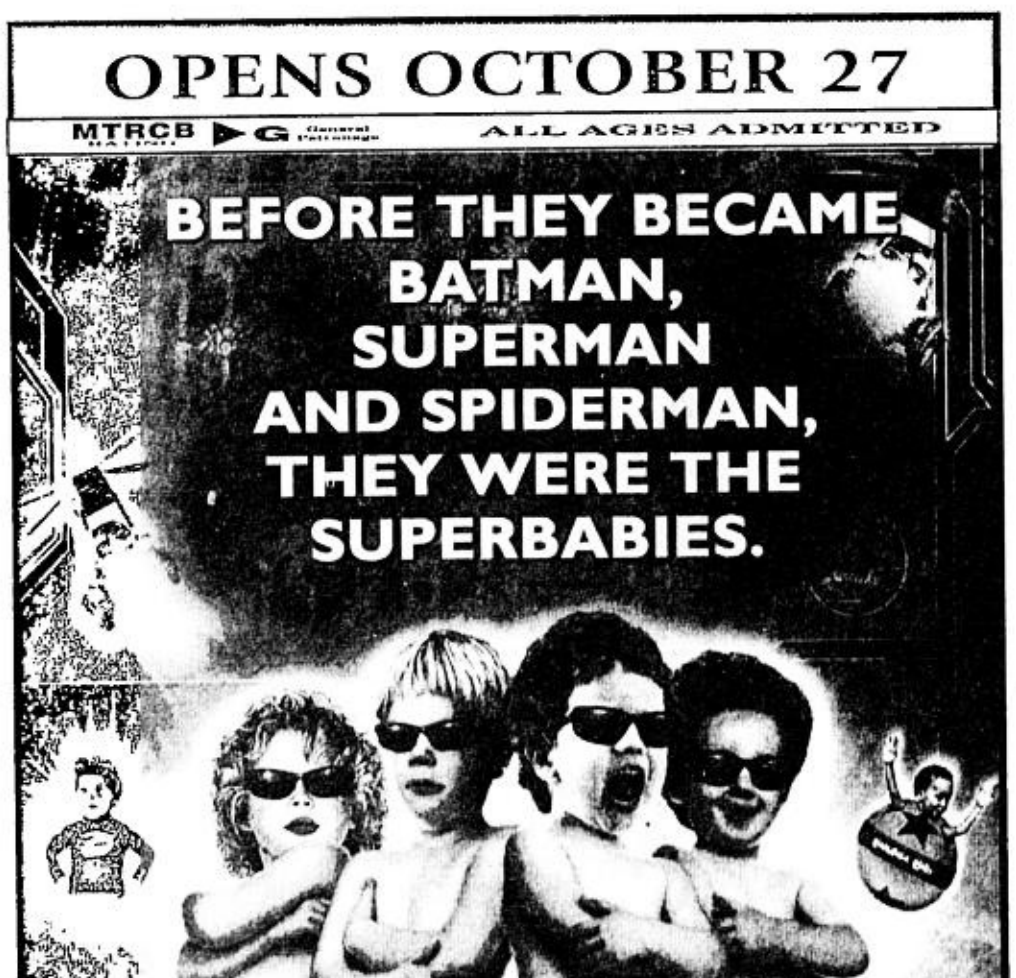
Lille: The initial concept was to have revolving members. Chie says we sound different from the original group. There's been a huge change lyrically [and] sonically. As for the fan base, Chie believes we've been winning fans in [and out of] the Fil-Am community.

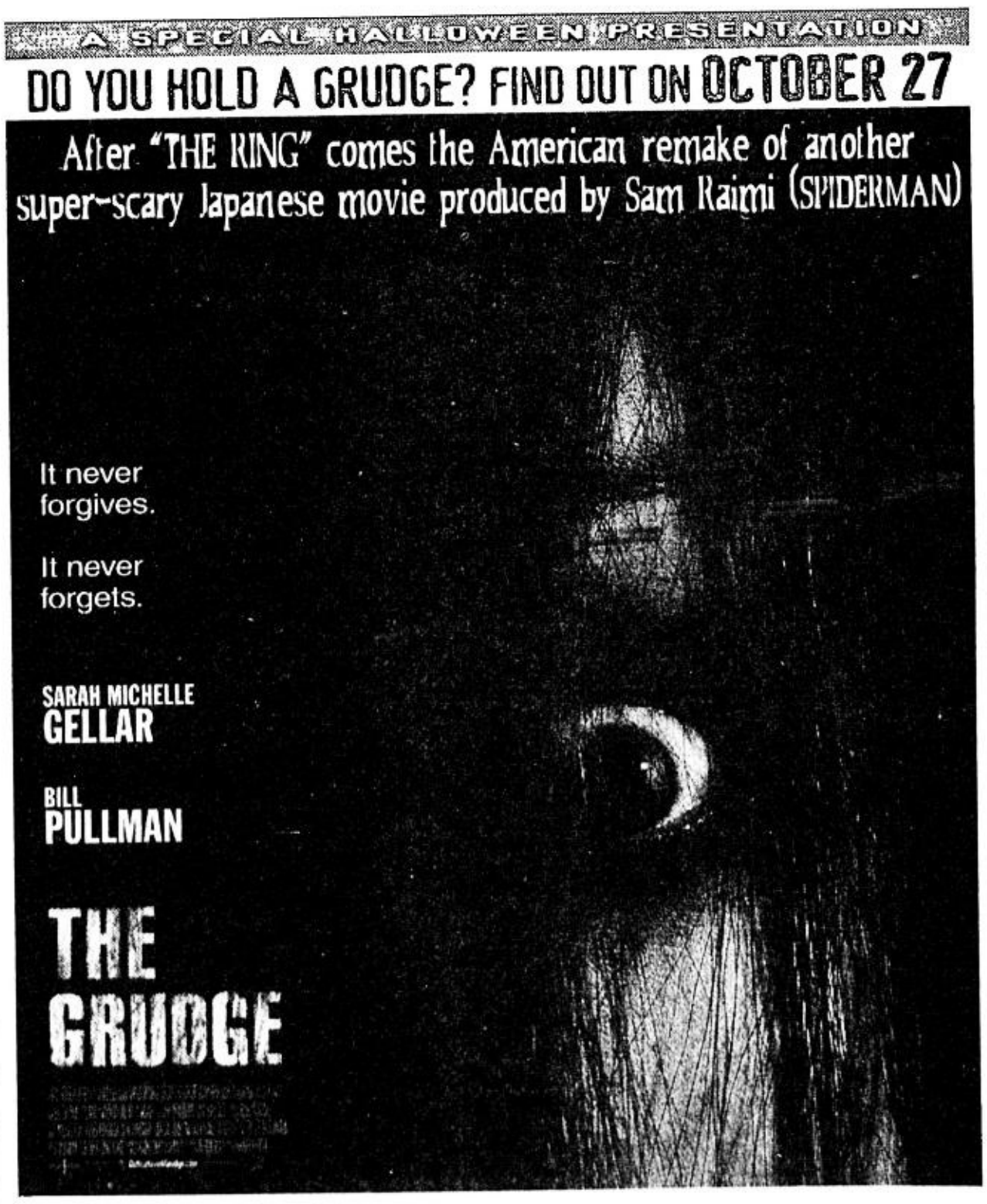
Why did you decide to become a permanent member? Were you ever in a band in the Philippines?

THIRD/ A30









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Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

WHAT'S INSIDE ■ **Quiapo 'stars' in movie** /A35 ■ **Politically incorrect puppet film** /A36

REEVES: 'I've said what I wanted to say.'

Escort Keanna saves up for beauty parlor

By Frank Cimatu,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

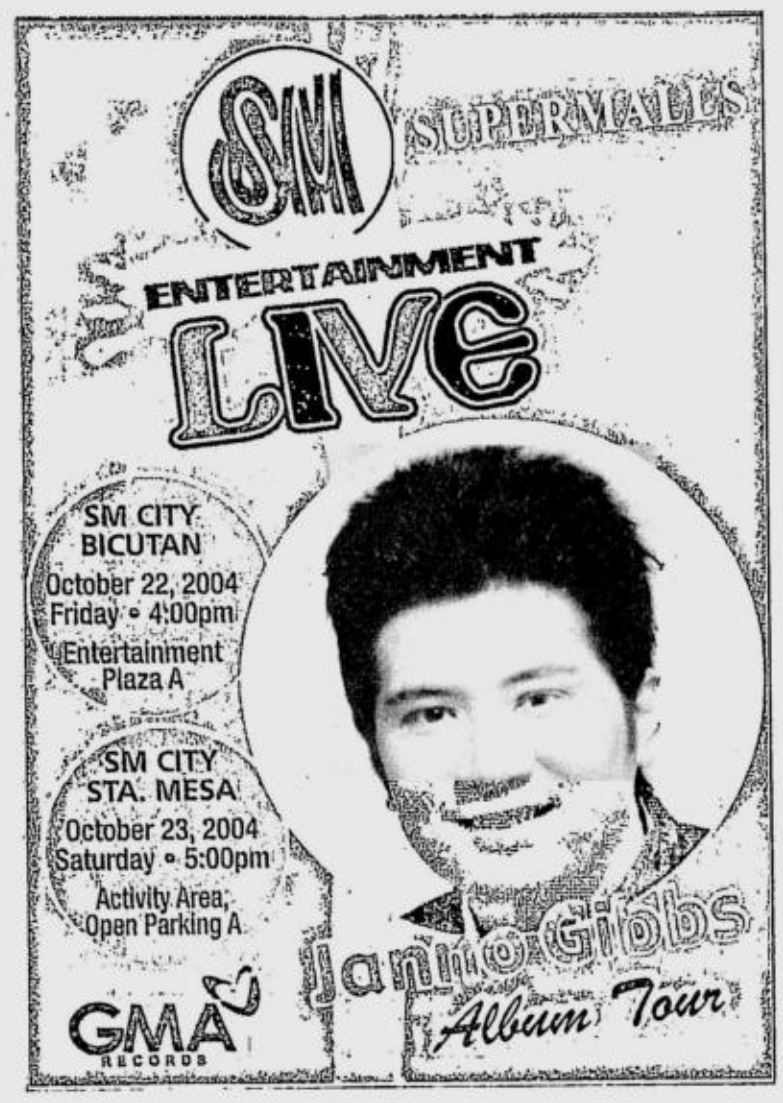
BAGUIO CITY—It took a scandal in the Armed Forces to yank controversial starlet Keanna Reeves and her exposé on escort services from newspaper headlines.

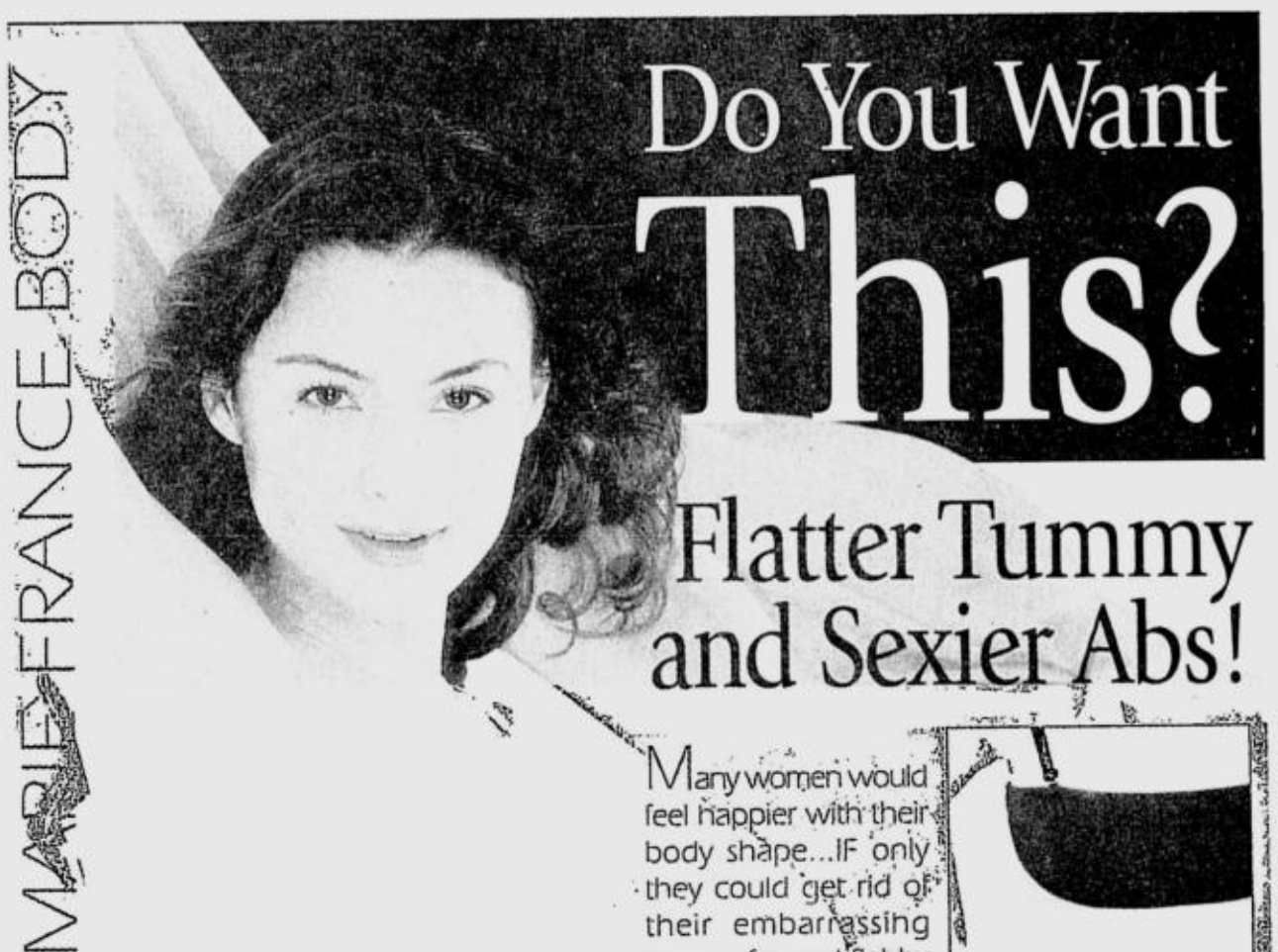
But Reeves says she is more than satisfied with her 15 minutes of fame, scored during a Senate hearing in September—even if she had to reveal her real age (33) and real name (Janette Derecho).

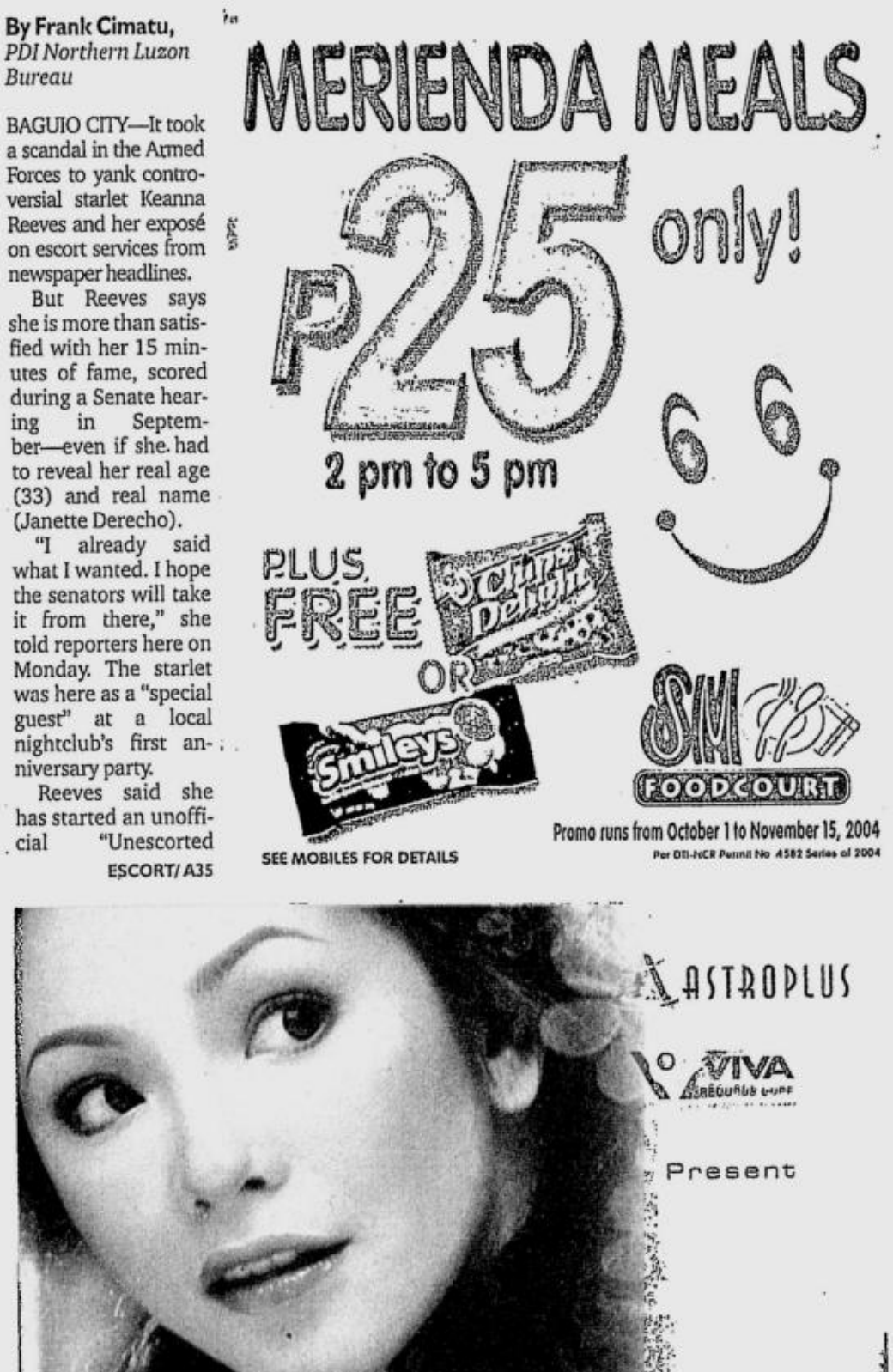
"I already said what I wanted. I hope the senators will take it from there," she told reporters here on Monday. The starlet was here as a "special guest" at a local nightclub's first anniversary party.

Reeves said she has started an unofficial "Unescorted

ESCORT/ A35







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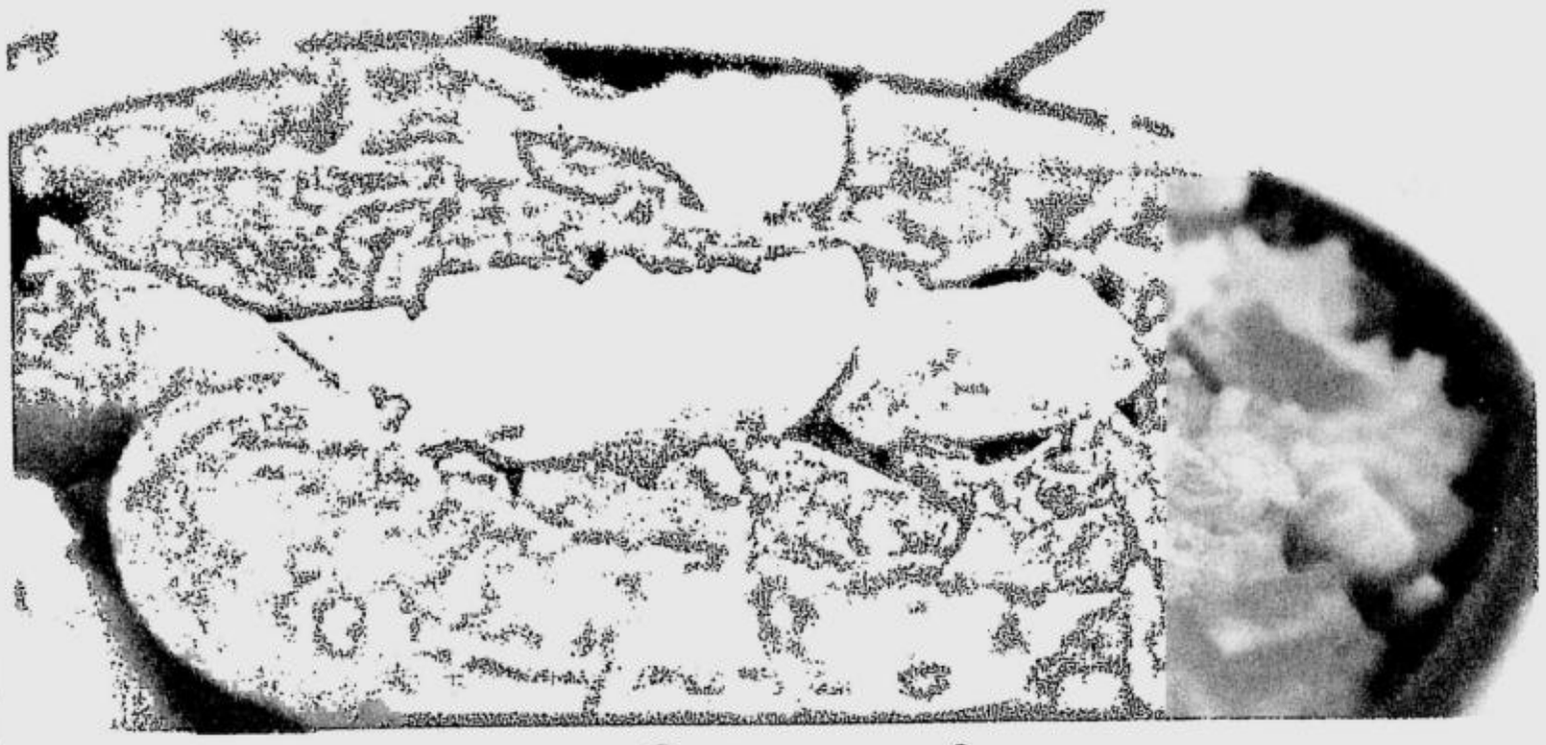
Flavors of Spain at Taal Vista Hotel



FUEGO Hotels and Properties together with the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy brings the "Flavors of Spain" to the new Taal Vista Hotel. The "Flavors of Spain", a food festival featuring Spanish gourmet dishes, was launched on Oct. 16 and will run until the 31st of October.

Experience Spain's rich and varied gastronomic treasures at Taal Vista's Café-on-the-Ridge and Lobby Lounge. Try Taal Vista's version of the wildly popular Spanish tapas. Enjoy its symphony of flavors with its perfect complement: the Sangria. On weekends, have your fill of the delicious buffet of traditional Spanish favorites such as the callos and the paella and delight your taste buds with new and exciting authentic dishes. Especially for this festival, chef Mikel Arriet will be flown in from the Basque region of Spain known for culinary excellence. Only 28 years old, chef Mikel is a culinary expert of Basque, Catalan, Spanish, French and Italian cuisine and has worked for 5-star establishments all over Ibiza, Tenerife and Barcelona, including the Martin Berasategi, a world-renowned restaurant that has been given the highly-coveted 3 Michelin stars.

Taal Vista Hotel, located in Tagaytay City, boasts of having the best view of the breathtaking Taal Volcano and Lake. The Hotel has 130 world-class guestrooms, restaurants, swimming pool and several other recreational facilities. It is fast becoming the preferred venue for conferences and social events owing to the Hotel personnel's brand of service and state-of-the-art function rooms and 2 pillar-less grand ballrooms. Taal Vista Hotel is managed by the Fuego Hotels and Properties Management Corporation, a company known for the highest standards of hospitality and efficiency.

The "Flavors of Spain" will also be held in other Fuego-managed properties, particularly the Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Davao on Nov. 13 to 30, Club Punta Fuego on Nov. 19 to 30 and Terrazas de Punta Fuego on Dec. 10 to 19. "Flavors of Spain" is supported by the Trade Commission of Spain, ICEX (the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade), Allied Domecq and Air France.

For inquiries and reservations, call Fuego Hotels at (02) 750-1999 or Taal Vista Hotel at (02) 751-3088/89 or (046) 413-1000.

Belle-Boo! Year Two

BELLE-BOO!, The Bellevue Hotel's much-awaited Halloween party, gets bigger and better this year. Spend a different kind of Halloween this Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Harry, Ron, Hermione and the rest of the Hogwarts gang.

The hotel's Laguna Ballroom magically turns into the Belle-Boo Enchanted Forest where kids in their best Harry Potter attire can enjoy the magic show, face painting, henna tattooing, film showings, exciting parlor games, great giveaways and a Halloween Dance by Enchanted Kingdom. Adults and kids can join for an entrance fee of P350 net, while guests taking the Special Halloween Brunch buffet at Café d'Asie get in free. Don't forget to come in your wackiest Harry Potter outfit, you just might win the Best Costume Award.

The Bellevue Hotel, Alabang's fun family destination, brings kids and parents new ways to spend bonding moments with its specially-organized parties and events. Families can also celebrate bigger get-togethers and reunions with the opening of The Bellevue's Grand Ballroom at the end of the year. For inquiries, call 771-8181

WATERFRONT TRAINEES UNDERGO ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Magnums Online Butler Certification Program is a long-distance corresponding course where students are given the opportunity to study the core components of the full time Magnums Butler Valet training program. The selected Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino trainees to undergo the online butler certification program are guest services manager, Bryan Lasala and group training coordinator, Erwin Cudis. They are expected to finish the program by January 2005. Shown in photo are: (standing, from left) Karen Mendoza, front office manager; Marco Protacio, general manager; Agnes Lucente, group training and development manager; (seated, from left): Bryan Lasala, guest services manager; Rexlon Gatchalian, EVP-hotel operations, and Erwin Cudis, training coordinator.

Rio Bar Cafe's October specials

THIS OCTOBER, catch these exciting promos and activities at the Rio Bar Café of the Executive Plaza Hotel:

Silver Moon is a delicious, romantic concoction of drambuie, orange concentrate, chocolate syrup and vanilla ice cream. The drink is only P225, and comes with a stuffed toy monkey for free.

Play your favorite billiards game for one hour and get two bottles of San Miguel Pale and one pica-pica platter (prawn crackers, crispy dilis and peanuts) for only P230.

Guests can avail the Drink-All-You-Can San Miguel Draft Beer for only P300 between 5 to 9 p.m.

Everyone is invited to Rio Bar Café's Halloween Party on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. The party includes a live band, games and raffle draws. Ticket price is P450 inclusive of dinner buffet, giveaways and a raffle stub.

Rio Bar Café is located at the lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel, 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Metro Manila.

The Dusit lifestyle experience

FROM Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, Dusit Hotel Nikko presents the "Dusit Lifestyle Experience". Guests can choose from amongst the three packages offered: The Landmark Suite Experience (US$153++) - the distinction is all yours to enjoy, to make your stay a truly memorable one; The Executive Suite Experience (US$133++) - be a caliber of your own kind, distinguished leaders of the business world where the order of the day is the business at hand; and the Executive Club Room Experience (US$113++) - the business executive's zone of comfort. Three floors where special amenities and privileges are all within your reach.

Experience all these pampering privileges from any of the hotel's lifestyle packages: round trip airport transfers, breakfast at the Landmark Lounge or at The Café, waived local calls, 20 percent discount from any of the F&B outlets, daily replenishment of fruit platter, 30 percent discount on Internet broadband connection fees, complimentary access to Clark Hatch Fitness Center, exclusive use of the work station, discount card at the Ayala Commercial Center and a choice of a bottle of red or white wine or box of pralines. For queries call the sales office at 812-2559 or the reservations office at 867-3333 local 3331-3334.

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Flavors of Spain at Taal Vista Hotel

FUEGO Hotels and Properties together with the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy brings the "Flavors of Spain" to the new Taal Vista Hotel. The "Flavors of Spain", a food festival featuring Spanish gourmet dishes, was launched on Oct. 16 and will run until the 31st of October.

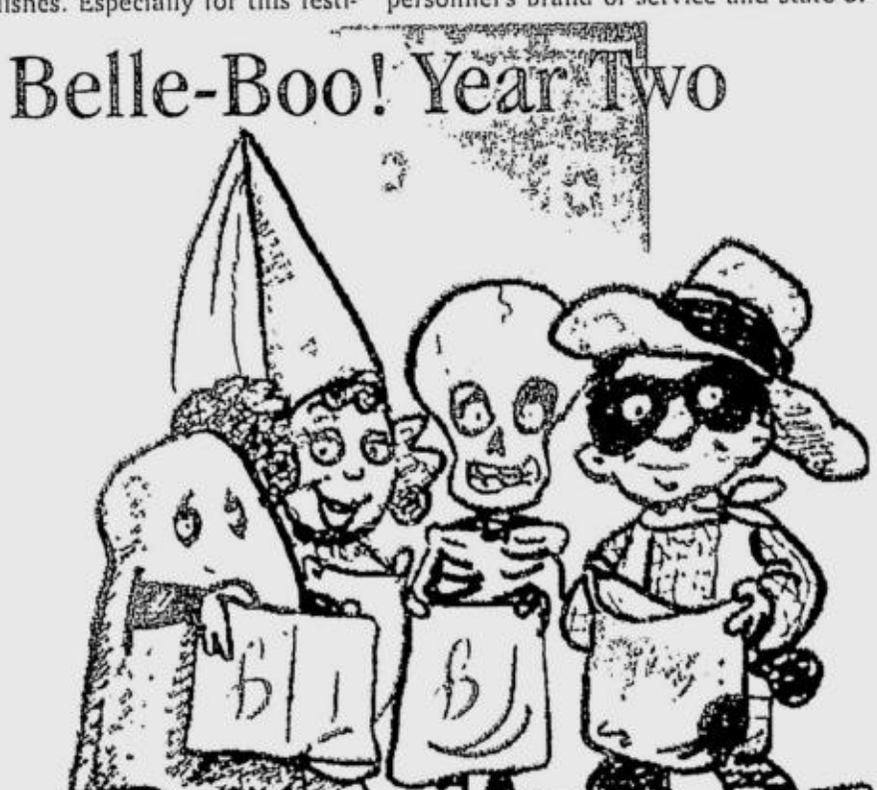
Experience Spain's rich and varied gastronomic treasures at Taal Vista's Café-on-the-Ridge and Lobby Lounge. Try Taal Vista's version of the wildly popular Spanish tapas. Enjoy its symphony of flavors with its perfect complement: the Sangria. On weekends, have your fill of the delicious buffet of traditional Spanish favorites such as the callos and the paella and delight your taste buds with new and exciting authentic dishes. Especially for this festival, chef Mikel Arriet will be flown in from the Basque region of Spain known for culinary excellence. Only 28 years old, chef Mikel is a culinary expert of Basque, Catalan, Spanish, French and Italian cuisine and has worked for 5-star establishments all over Ibiza, Tenerife and Barcelona, including the Martin Berasategi, a world-renowned restaurant that has been given the highly-covered 3 Michelin stars.

Taal Vista Hotel, located in Tagaytay City, boasts of having the best view of the breathtaking Taal Volcano and Lake. The Hotel has 130 world-class guestrooms, restaurants, swimming pool and several other recreational facilities. It is fast becoming the preferred venue for conferences and social events owing to the Hotel personnel's brand of service and state-of-the-art function rooms and 2 pillar-less grand ballrooms. Taal Vista Hotel is managed by the Fuego Hotels and Properties Management Corporation, a company known for the highest standards of hospitality and efficiency.

The "Flavors of Spain" will also be held in other Fuego-managed properties, particularly the Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Davao on Nov. 13 to 30, Club Punta Fuego on Nov. 19 to 30 and Terrazas de Punta Fuego on Dec. 10 to 19. "Flavors of Spain" is supported by the Trade Commission of Spain, ICEX (the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade), Allied Domecq and Air France.

For inquiries and reservations, call Fuego Hotels at (02) 750-1999 or Taal Vista Hotel at (02) 751-3088/89 or (046) 413-1000.

Belle-Boo! Year Two



BELLE-BOO!, The Bellevue Hotel's much-awaited Halloween party, gets bigger and better this year. Spend a different kind of Halloween this Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Harry, Ron, Hermione and the rest of the Hogwarts gang.

The hotel's Laguna Ballroom magically turns into the Belle-Boo Enchanted Forest where kids in their best Harry Potter attire can enjoy the magic show, face painting, henna tattooing, film showings, exciting parlor games, great giveaways and a Halloween Dance by Enchanted Kingdom. Adults and kids can join for an entrance fee of P350 net, while guests taking the Special Halloween Brunch buffet at Café d'Asie get in free. Don't forget to come in your wackiest Harry Potter outfit, you just might win the Best Costume Award.

The Bellevue Hotel, Alabang's fun family destination, brings kids and parents new ways to spend bonding moments with its specially-organized parties and events. Families can also celebrate bigger get-togethers and reunions with the opening of The Bellevue's Grand Ballroom at the end of the year. For inquiries, call 771-8181

WATERFRONT TRAINEES UNDERGO ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Magnums Online Butler Certification Program is a long-distance corresponding course where students are given the opportunity to study the core components of the full time Magnums Butler Valet training program. The selected Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino trainees to undergo the online butler certification program are guest services manager, Bryan Lasala and group training coordinator, Erwin Cudis. They are expected to finish the program by January 2005. Shown in photo are: (standing, from left) Karen Mendoza, front office manager; Marco Protacio, general manager; Agnes Lucente, group training and development manager; (seated, from left): Bryan Lasala, guest services manager; Rexlon Gatchalian, EVP-hotel operations, and Erwin Cudis, training coordinator.

Rio Bar Cafe's October specials

THIS OCTOBER, catch these exciting promos and activities at the Rio Bar Café of the Executive Plaza Hotel:

Silver Moon is a delicious, romantic concoction of drambuie, orange concentrate, chocolate syrup and vanilla ice cream. The drink is only P225, and comes with a stuffed toy monkey for free.

Play your favorite billiards game for one hour and get two bottles of San Miguel Pale and one pica-pica platter (prawn crackers, crispy dilis and peanuts) for only P230.

Guests can avail the Drink-All-You-Can San Miguel Draft Beer for only P300 between 5 to 9 p.m.

Everyone is invited to Rio Bar Café's Halloween Party on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. The party includes a live band, games and raffle draws. Ticket price is P450 inclusive of dinner buffet, giveaways and a raffle stub.

Rio Bar Café is located at the lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel, 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Metro Manila.

The Dusit lifestyle experience

FROM Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, Dusit Hotel Nikko presents the "Dusit Lifestyle Experience". Guests can choose from amongst the three packages offered: The Landmark Suite Experience (US$153++) - the distinction is all yours to enjoy, to make your stay a truly memorable one; The Executive Suite Experience (US$133++) - be a caliber of your own kind, distinguished leaders of the business world where the order of the day is the business at hand; and the Executive Club Room Experience (US$113++) - the business executive's zone of comfort. Three floors where special amenities and privileges are all within your reach.

Experience all these pampering privileges from any of the hotel's lifestyle packages: round trip airport transfers, breakfast at the Landmark Lounge or at The Café, waived local calls, 20 percent discount from any of the F&B outlets, daily replenishment of fruit platter, 30 percent discount on Internet broadband connection fees, complimentary access to Clark Hatch Fitness Center, exclusive use of the work station, discount card at the Ayala Commercial Center and a choice of a bottle of red or white wine or box of pralines. For queries call the sales office at 812-2559 or the reservations office at 867-3333 local 3331-3334.

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Quiapo 'stars' in Guillen movie

CROWDED, bustling, eclectic Quiapo is the perfect setting for "Santa Santita," which reunites director Laurice Guillen with Unitel, producer of the landmark film "Crying Ladies."

Opening in metro theaters next month, the movie might as well be stamped "competition-worthy" this early in the game. Guillen is a multi-awarded director, and "Crying Ladies" bagged most of the trophies in last year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

"Santita's" script, written by Jerry Gracio, was first prize winner in the Film Foundation competition a few years ago. Angelica Panganiban and Jericho Rosales play the lead roles.

The story? Says Unitel CEO Tony Gloria: "People will see something that is very much a part of our culture. At center stage is the Black Nazarene and the streets of Quiapo. It's not your usual movie set in beautiful houses and beautiful locations. This is the real thing, and what happens here is very interesting, very unique."

In essence, it is a love story, Gloria adds, but "far from the usual types."

Panganiban tackles her first adult role, a rebellious daughter quite removed from her "cute girl" image. Rosales trades his boy next door/anguished swain persona for a chance to do a sinister character nowhere near the definition of hero.

Guillen personally brought "Santita" to Gloria's attention in 2002. The CEO says he liked it "immediately." The working partners made waves earlier with the critically acclaimed and internationally successful "American Adobo."

"Santita" promises to make waves anew, as much for its production elements as for its creative aspects. The movie is shot entirely in HD (or High Definition), the latest digital technology in movie making and broadcast production. This has given the film a new texture, and ultimately, a different energy.

Unitel is the first production house in Southeast Asia to acquire Panasonic Varicam HD cameras. These have bridged the gap between production costs and creativity, enabling directors like Guillen—and others before her like George Lucas in "Star Wars" and "Episode 2;" Robert Rodriguez in "Once Upon A Time In Mexico," "Spy Kids," and "3D;" and Michael Mann in "Collateral"—to shoot continuously and still achieve all the desired effects.

To watch the trailer, visit www.santasantita.com.

AWARD WINNERS Johnny Delgado, Cherrie Pie Picache and Hilda Koronel in gritty film about life around the local landmark

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IT COULD have been Jasmine. Richard Gomez's stunning wife Lucy was spotted at the posh Rockwell Club near the Power Plant Mall on Tuesday afternoon. She stepped out of a shiny black Ford Expedition in an all-black getup and—get this—a big red flower in her hair. But was it fresh? Our spy didn't get close enough.

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Escort Keanna saves up for beauty parlor

From page A2-33

Tour," appearing in fiestas, initially in Parañaque City and Batangas province.

After the noise generated by her exposé, she said, she received two offers to make movies about the lives of escort girls. She has just finished shooting "Dilag sa Dalampasigan (Beauty on the Shore)" under director Richard Miniola.

She plays a doctor in "Dilag"—a victim, she said. "I'm tired of of being treated this way."

Reeves heated up the SRO crowd in the nightclub with two dance routines performed at midnight.

In skimpy apple green shorts, she danced to the tune of Santana's "Smooth." Later, in black lacy shorts, she performed the second number accompanied by music from Enigma. She was reportedly paid P30,000 for what she called her "racket," or sideline.

"It was worth it," said club manager Terry Escaña.

"I have to work hard," the starlet said in Filipino. "I can't do this forever."

She's just saving up enough money, she said, and then she will leave Manila altogether to go back to her native Cebu: "I think I will put up a beauty parlor."

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events! events!

LIVE! THE BACOLOD MASSKARA

Catch the winning troupe of The Bacolod Masskara Festival on Oct 23 and 24, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm and 7:00pm at the Activity Center!

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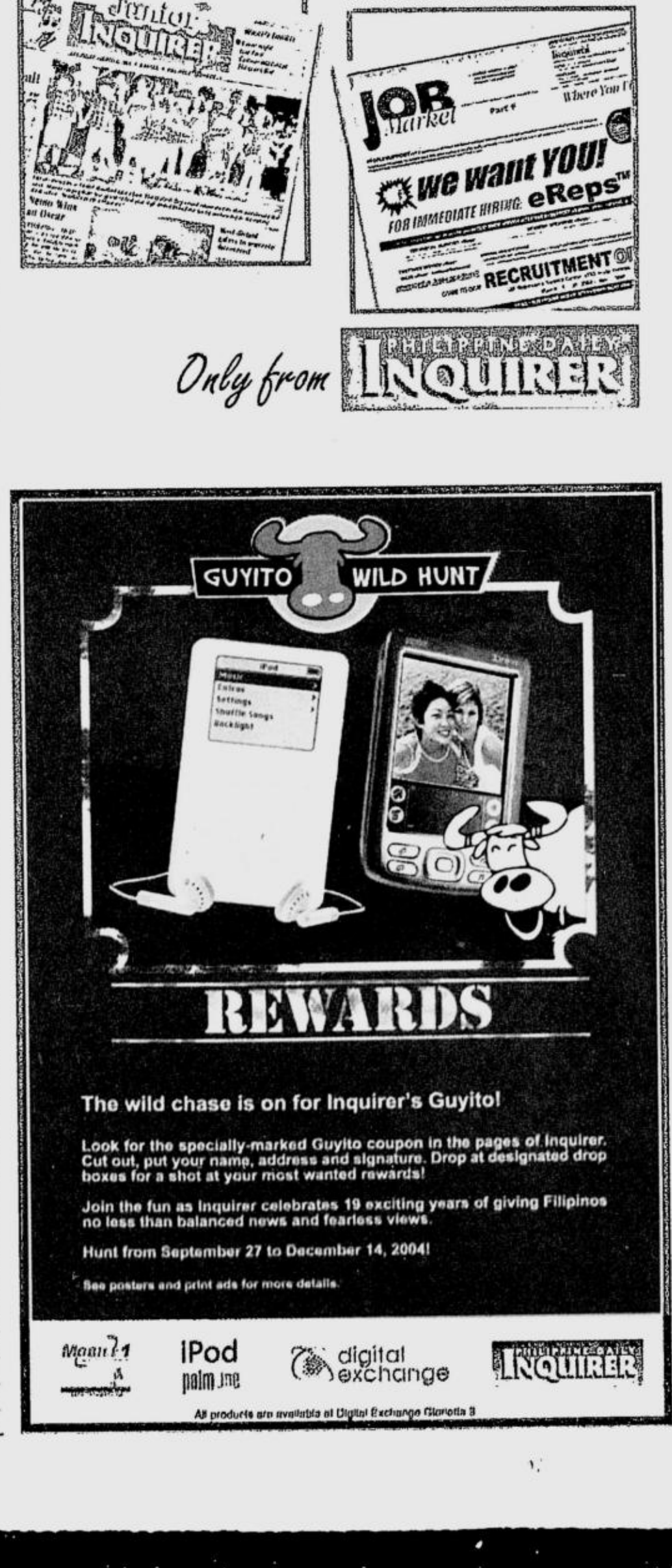

ENTERTAINMENT

Politically incorrect puppet film definitely not for kids

LOS ANGELES—North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il is a terrorist kingpin who has lured a clutch of famous Hollywood peace activists to a summit where they are accidentally- slaughtered by a gung-ho US anti-terror team.

A news flash? No, it's part of the stinging plot of a satirical new puppet movie that skewers America's sacred cows from President George W. Bush's war against terror, to Tinseltown star Sean Penn's peace activism, to outspoken US filmmaker Michael Moore.

The politically incorrect "Team America: World Police," which opened America last week, is inspired by the classic 1960s puppet series "Thunderbirds," but draws its biting humor very much from the 21st century.

The comedy hit comes just days ahead of the US election, which features Bush's war on terror as one of its central, and most sensitive, themes and angering some Americans, including the volatile Penn.

No apologies

Written, directed and voiced by the makers of the irreverent US cartoon series "South Park," Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the film takes an unapologetically political yet unpartisan poke at America and the world, sparing no one.

The film features an explosive array of Rambo-style stunts performed by an unlikely group of clunky wooden marionettes who pepper the movie with violence, bad language and puppet sex that shatter any lingering resemblance to children's entertainment.

Wicked

"We just think that everything's funny. Nothing is off limits," Parker told an interviewer. "People ... don't realize that comedy can be something a lot deeper."

While the movie wickedly mocks outspoken Hollywood political activists, including Penn, it was its suggestion that lazy, apathetic and ignorant citizens should not turn out to vote that inspired the actor to write an angry letter to the filmmakers.

"I never mind being of service in satire and silliness," Penn wrote. "I do mind when anybody who doesn't have a child, doesn't have a child at war, or isn't or won't be in harm's way themselves is saying that 'there is no shame in not voting if you don't know what you are talking about'."

The film narrowly missed a ratings classification that would have put it out of reach of anyone below the age of 17 due to foul language and graphic scenes of sex between puppets. *AFP*

'Lilo & Stitch' marathon on Disney TV tomorrow

DISNEY Channel has stiched together for tomorrow an all-day marathon of "Lilo & Stitch" specials.

Look back on how the fun and excitement began with "Lilo & Stitch The Movie" at 9 a.m. See how Stitch (a.k.a. Experiment 626) began wreaking havoc with the help of creator Dr. Jumba, and witness how that cute, naughty alien found a true friend in the loveable but lonesome Lilo.

Next comes "Stitch! The Movie" at 1 p.m. In this sequel, Stitch, together with Lilo and cuzzin Pleakly, is alarmed with the arrival of Dr. Jumba's previous experiments on the tropical islands. Stitch leads the pack into action against the evil Captain Gantu, who makes weapons of destruction out of the experiments.

Lastly, the best episodes from "Lilo & Stitch The Series" will be shown. The disarming duo converts the good-for-nothing experiments to productive ingenues of the islands.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN		Sarah The Teen Princess	Maid In Heaven	Sandara's Romance	Tokyo Underground	Samurai X	Get Backers	Ragnarok	TV Patrol	Star Circle Nail Teen Quest	Krystala	Marina	It Might Be You	Hiram	Star Cinema Presents			Insider	Private I
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Para Park Presents		Corporate Billards League		Teledyaryo				The Working President	Family Rosary Crusade	Oras ng Katotohanan	
ABC	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Pre-Game Show	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Dretsahan	TNA Impact		Dream Music Videos		
GMA	Loya (2.45 PM)	Joyride (3.15 PM)	Twin Sisters 100% Señorita		One Piece	Rumo Soldier	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin (7.50 PM)		Starstruck (8.50 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9.20 PM)	Bubble Gang			Salsal
RPN	Metro TV Shopping			Ratsada Balita		Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Just For Laughs	Dharma & Greg	Enterprise		Dead Zone		Newswatch Now	Martin & Regine World Tour		
IBC		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Celebrity Dat Com		Global Family Series		Pamana		Cyberleague	IBC News Tonite	GMA The Working President	
Solar		WWE Velocity		WWE Experience		Resol	Thunder Sub	Ozzy & Drix	Heavy Gear	Deep Space Nine		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		Wow	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Sol Rick	Whacked! Sabrina The Teenage Witch/ Petsweek/My Dad The RockStar Drake & Josh					100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	Boot Nick - Non-Stop Hits	
ETC		What I Like About You	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	What I Like About You	Iron Chef		Star Search		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One	Yamashita The Tiger's Treasure				Dinampot Ka Lang Sa Putik					Ipagpatawad Mo			Review Night	Kamagong				Ticket	
Studio 23								Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup	Spider-Man: The Animated Series	The Swan		Mes Match		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Spin City
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Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Baywatch		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	TNA Wrestling		Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape	When Hidden Cameras Attack	Nash Bridges		Just Shoot Me	Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic	On Assignment	NG Sea						The Seattle Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr Brady Barr-Europe	Wild		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		NG Sea			
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mano	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Ed Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		Style Essentials	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Read & Track	Back To Basics	Planet Parent	Wolfgang Puck's
HBO				Maximum Velocity			The Spitfire Grill (5:35 PM)				Bugs (7.35 PM)			Spider-Man				Carnivale 03: Tipton	
Star Movies	Haters			Lost In Yonkers				Sorority Boys			The Flintstones			It Runs In The Family				Sleeping With The Enemy (10.50PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Foster's Home	Toon Pick	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Zoids: Fuzors	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Looney Tunes Show	What's New Scooby Doo?	Samurai Jack	Mucha Lucha!		Aqua Teen (11.15PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	Great Outdoor Games ESPN		Pool/Snooker World Pool Masters 2004				Gosol	Sportscenter Taiwan	English premier league preview	Sportscenter Taiwan	Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League 2004				Sportscenter Taiwan				
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Un-luckaroo Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	Street Cranes			Tyson			Crowned And Dangerous			Collateral Damage				The Cowboy Way			Octane (10.45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Napoleon				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Family Law		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		She's Too Young			The Distinct (10.35PM)		Family Law (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Full Metal Challenge		Mythbusters		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Camu Night	
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004

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BSP sees October inflation at 6.9-7.4%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INFLATION rate in October is expected to come in at 6.9-7.4 percent, the highest in more than five years, due to rising oil prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

Inflation in the year through September reached 6.9 percent. The National Statistics Office is scheduled to release the October inflation data on Nov. 5.

In a press briefing yesterday, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the projection was based on the 1994 consumer price index.

Crude oil prices reached $55 a barrel during the month, the highest level seen since the first Gulf war.

The increases in oil prices have also been putting pressure on the peso-dollar exchange rate, with the peso hitting the all-time low of 56.45:$1 in recent weeks.

Buenaventura said the BSP had already considered the rising cost of oil and its impact on prices of basic commodities in its inflation targets until June next year.

He said the BSP had not seen any second-round inflationary pressures—such as those arising from wage adjustments.

The BSP has conceded that the 4-5 percent inflation targets for this year and next year were no longer realistic due to the rising world market prices of oil.

Assuming that inflation during the remaining months of the year would average at 7.2 percent, Buenaventura said the yearend average would be 5.4 percent, higher than the target.

The BSP chief said the inflation continued to be driven by supply factors that were likely to be short-lived.

"Inflation, which is expected to be higher than 4-5 percent for 2004 and 2005, is expected to return to the 4-5 percent range in 2006," Buenaventura said.

Under its inflation-targeting approach to monetary management, the BSP may be excused from overshooting its targets if the reasons were beyond the influence of monetary policy. Among the "escape" factors are: volatility in the prices of agricultural products; natural calamities or any event that affect a major part of the economy; volatility in the prices of oil and oil products, and changes in government administration or policy measures that directly affect prices.

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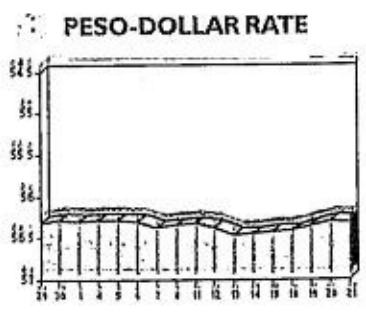

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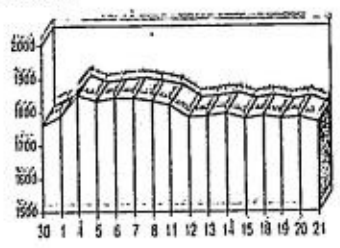
STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall to 3-week low



SHARES, led by telecom leader PLDT, fell to a three-week low yesterday on worries over the impact of rising oil prices on corporate earnings.

Energy officials said gasoline pump prices might continue to rise until the end of the year in the Philippines as global crude prices soar. The Southeast Asian country sources nearly all of its crude requirements overseas.

(See stock market report on Page B7)

"A stock market rally and rising oil prices cannot co-exist," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan. "For the market to rebound, we need to see oil prices staying flat or going down." The main index fell 1.03 percent or 18.33 points to 1,766.60 points yesterday, but was still up 22 percent so far this year.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which is a quarter-owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., fell 2.14 percent or P30 to P1,375 , tracking a decline in its American Depository Receipts by $0.20 to $25.08.

PLDT accounted for 19 percent of total trade.

Second-ranked Globe Telecom Inc. fell 1.90 percent or P20 to P1,030.

Value turnover went up to P724.8 million from Wednesday's P667.6 million.

In the broader market, losers beat gainers 53 to 15, with 49 stocks unchanged.

Analysts said buyers were also cautious ahead of earnings next week, with players also awaiting the results of the Fitch Ratings review of the Philippines. *Reuters*

FBDC ordered to pay ₱1.07B in back taxes

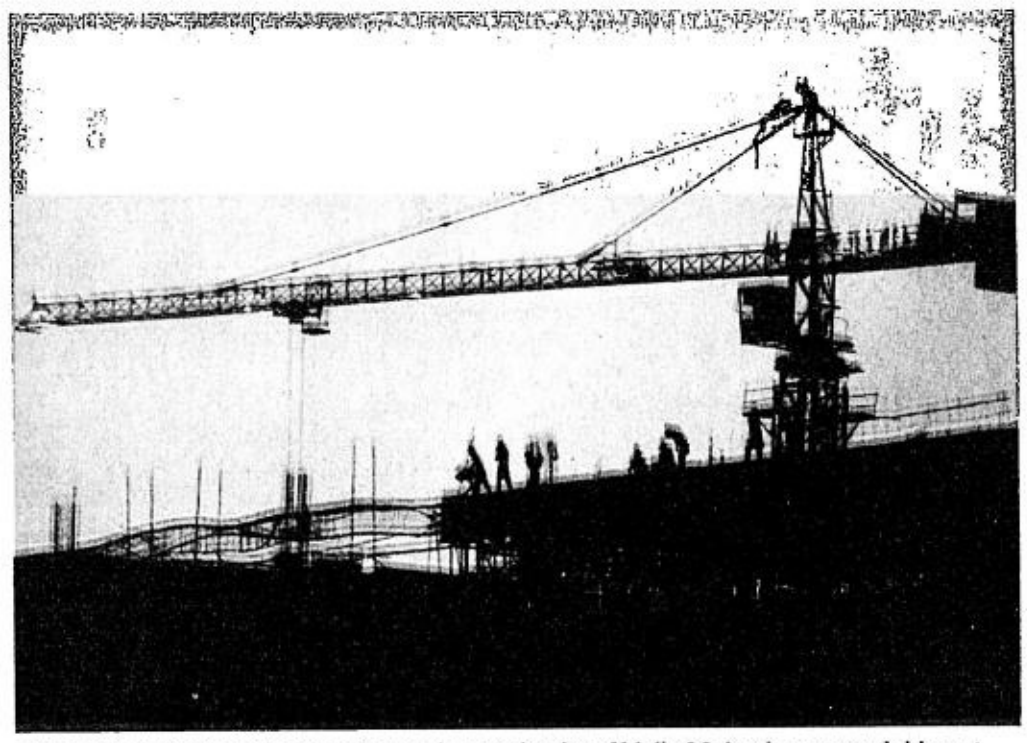
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COURT of Appeals has ordered Fort Bonifacio Development Court to pay P1.068 billion to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for failing to pay documentary stamp taxes on a real estate transaction that was dubbed the "Deal of the Century" nine years ago.

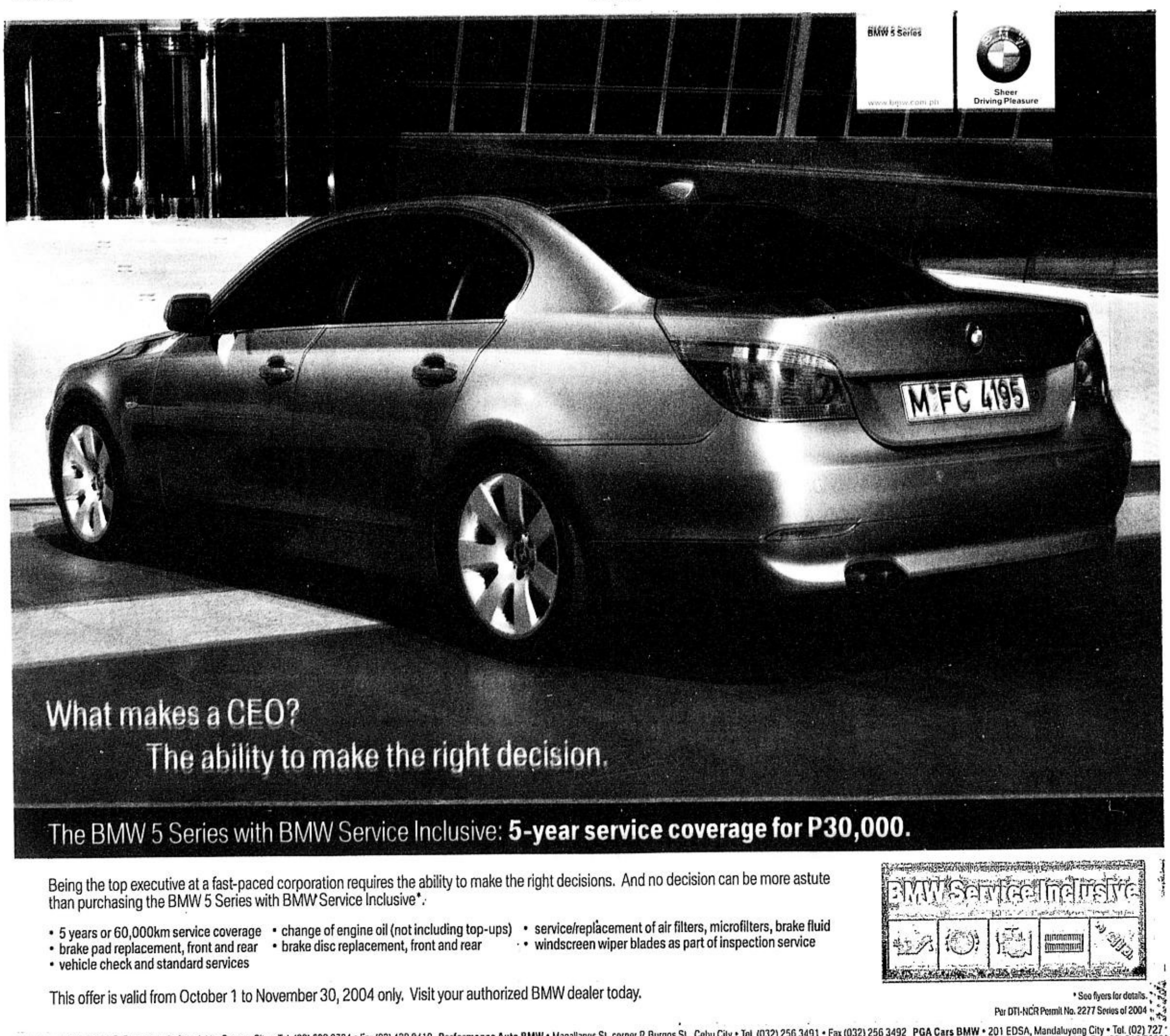
The CA rejected FBDC's appeal to reverse the Court of Tax Appeals' order last year which upheld the BIR's assessment on the tax deficiencies on the purchase by the Metro Pacific Corp.-led consortium of 212 hectares of land in the Fort Bonifacio complex for P71.227 billion.

In a ruling dated June 11, the CA Special 8th Division said the FBDC's petition was "bereft of merit" because the law clearly stat-

FBDC/ B2



CONSTRUCTION workers work overtime at the site of Mall of Asia, the country's biggest shopping center, near Manila bay. The property market which crumbled during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s has been showing signs of recovery but rising oil prices are threatening the otherwise bright prospects as the costs of construction materials soar. REUTERS



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DOHA ROUND

Conclusion of WTO talks seen by '06

By Ronnel W. Domingo

WHILE trade negotiations between countries were "intensifying," the conclusion of the latest round of talks under the World Trade Organization might not come earlier than 2006.

This according to WTO deputy director general Rufus H. Yerxa, who was attending the two-day "Business for Development" forum at the Philippine Trade Trading Center, which will conclude today.

"The Doha Round would not be concluded this year," Yerxa said.

"We don't know if it would be finished in [the sixth ministerial conference] in Hong Kong in December 2005, but there will be a strong desire to achieve that next year," he added.

Yerxa is taking part in the forum that gathers 45 delegates from business and government of 16 countries.

The delegates will tackle the challenges and options following the adoption of the so-called WTO "July package."

The package resulted from negotiations aimed at meeting the deadline of July 31, 2004, to put the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations back on track.

This agreement sets out the general framework for continuing negotiations in agriculture, nonagricultural market access, development, services and trade facilitation.

Yerxa said the previous Uruguay Round took eight years to conclude and it was likely that the Doha Round, which started in November 2001 in Qatar, would also take that long.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round resulted in the adoption of the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade and the creation of the WTO, which the Philippine Senate ratified in 1995.

Doha Round negotiations suffered a setback when the fifth ministerial conference at Cancun, Mexico, collapsed in September last year.

But "more and more" trade negotiations were being held in Geneva (where the WTO is based) and this indicated that that process was intensifying, he said.

In June, the Asian Development Bank said a new round of talks among WTO members was vital to the development of economies in Asia and the Pacific.

ADB vice president Geert van der Linden said a successful conclusion to the Doha Round would also play a key role in poverty reduction in the region.

"Trade is the catalyst for undertaking microeconomic reforms and adoption of new technologies that are essential for sustainable improvements in productivity," Van der Linden said.

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Subic exports hit $558M as of Sept.

RENEWED demand for computers and other electronics products boosted exports from the Subic freeport by 14 percent in the first nine months of the year.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority reported that exports hit $558 million as of end-September, up from $491 million posted in the same period last year.

Alfredo C. Antonio, the newly installed administrator of the SBMA, said in a statement that exports from Subic remained strong despite the slight fall in shipments of electronic products.

"We are confident that export performance would remain sturdy for the rest of the year," Antonio said.

Data from the One-Stop Export Documentation Center-Subic (OSEDC) showed that the highest single-month exports came in May, when exports reached $89 million.

From January to September, Wistron Infocomm remained the top exporter, posting receipts worth $384 million or 69 percent of the total.

Shipments from the Taiwanese firm surpassed by 28 percent its export earnings of $300 million recorded in the same period last year.

A subsidiary of Acer Computers, Wistron makes laptop computers, motherboards and peripherals, fax machines, integrated circuits, microelectronics and software for the brands Acer, IBM and Hitachi.

Electric machinery and appliances maker Sanyo Deiki was the second-largest exporter with shipments valued at $38 million.

Top Mechatronics Corp., the maker of automated teller machine parts formerly known as Omron Corp., placed third with $29 million worth of exports.

Japanese wood processing firm Juken Sangyo (Philippines) ranked fourth, with $14 million worth of exported products, while air-conditioner maker Taiwan Hitachi Subic Inc. was fifth with $6 million.

Increased export earnings was also observed in the non-electronic value-added sectors, such as processed wood, high-end garments, jewelry and aircraft production. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

FBDC . . .

From page B1

ed that that deed of absolute sale with quitclaim entered into by the government and FBDC in 1995 was covered by DST and that there was no clear exemption granted by Congress.

"Taxation is the rule and exemption is the exception. The law does not look with favor on tax exemptions and he who seeks to be thus privileged must justify it by words in the law too categorical to be misinterpreted," the CA said.

The CA also lamented that the "protracted litigation" of the case which began in 1999 "could have been avoided had (FBDC) realized the nature of the tax levied on it."

FBDC claimed that the Court of Tax Appeals had erred in its ruling because the Fort Bonifacio deal was covered by a special patent issued by the government (that exempted it from Sec. 196 of the old National Internal Revenue Code), the law exempted the proceeds from the sale of military camps from all forms of taxes and fees, the firm was a government and not a private entity being a wholly-owned by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

The CA, however, ruled that the special patent issued by the government on the deal was simply intended to facilitate the registration of the property and that the DST was imposed not on the patent but on the deed of absolute sale.

The CA also noted that the proceeds from the sale of the military camps were meant to be the remainder of the purchase price after deducting all expenses related to the sale including taxes such as the DST.

The CA, likewise, rejected FBDC's argument that it was exempted because it was a government subsidiary. It said: "The NIRC does not exempt government-owned and controlled corporations and their subsidiaries from the payment of DST."

Not even the warrant issued by the Ramos administration did not make the deal tax exempt because Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona nor former President Fidel Ramos had the authority to issue such a a tax perk.

"By no stretch of the imagination can such warrant be interpreted as granting an exemption to petitioner from any form of tax. The power to tax and to grant tax exemptions is vested in Congress. Tax exemptions should not be lightly extended since they will represent a loss of revenue to the government," the CA said.

The CA said that the none of the P71.227 billion purchase price for FBDC went to the specified beneficiaries of the BCDA proceeds such as financing the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, infrastructure development of former US military bases, and the National Shelter Program. "Based on the evidence adduced by petitioner itself, the BCDA assigned the entire purchase price of P71.227 billion to FBDC as payment for the former's subscription with the latter," the CA said.

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In a press briefing last July 2004, BPI AMTG Head SVP Adelbert A. Legasto, declared their optimism in the market and projected the PHISIX to initially target the 1700 psychological level heading towards the 1900 level. As of September 9, 2004, the index has indeed surpassed the initial targeted level, closing at 1,739. Coupled by the stronger confidence of foreign fund managers validated by net foreign buying of P1.3B for the month of September alone as well as the increased daily value turn-over of P797M (net of crosses), the index is moving on to challenge the 1900 level, a task that does not only seem to be a possibility but more of an inevitability. This target provides investors an initial upside potential of at least 9% in the coming few months.

Is it too late to enter the market? The answer is no. First, although investors continue to accumulate stocks with strong fundamentals on 2nd semester good earnings expectations, investment experts are expecting periodic market corrections. These normal occurrences seen after continuous run-ups in the market afford an accumulation window for investors. Second, in the medium and long-term views, the PHISIX remains to have a large upside, the sooner the entry the bigger the return potential.

Given the generally bullish market outlook, now is the time to ride the stock market and take advantage of its full upside potential. One effective way to do this is to invest in an index-tracker fund such as the Philippine Index Fund or PIF. With a minimum investment of only P50,000 during the initial offer period, investors are effectively investing in a diversified portfolio of 33 stocks comprising the PHISIX, with the lowest fees and commissions compared with investing in PHISIX stocks on their own and without the hassle of daily individual stock monitoring.

The low minimum initial investment amount is expected to tap a larger retail market of longterm equity investors while at the same time creating greater awareness on equity investing among small individual investors.

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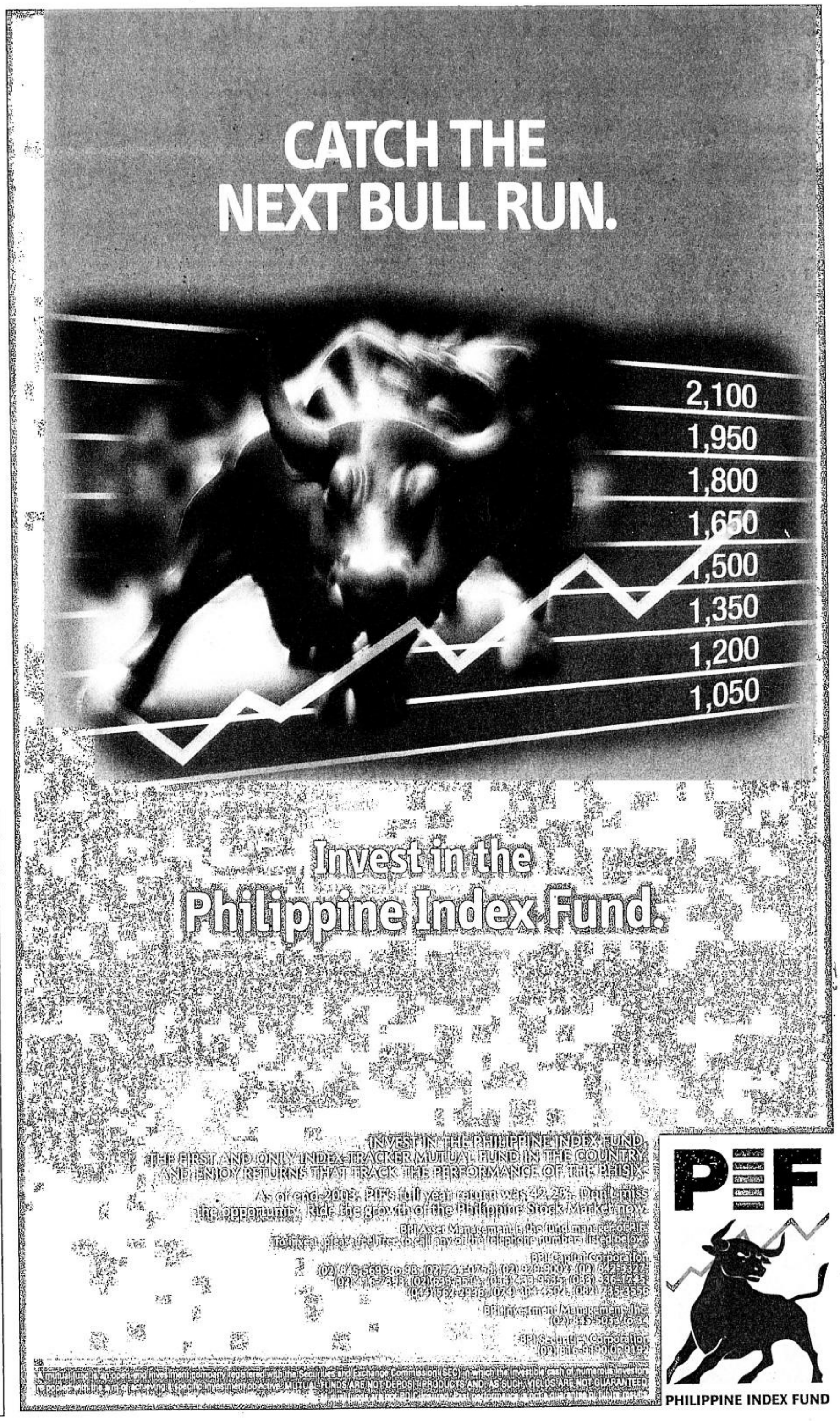

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14 Japanese firms seen vying for Napocor assets

By Abigail L. Ho

FOURTEEN Japanese firms have expressed strong interest in bidding for some of the country's power assets, including some of National Power Corp.'s generation plants and geothermal sites being auctioned off under the Geothermal Bidding Round (Geothermal 1).

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez revealed this after attending the 25th Joint Meeting between the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee and the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee in Japan.

Present in the meeting were Japanese and Filipino businessmen, diplomats and senior government officials. The meeting aimed to further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Of the 14 Japanese firms that expressed interest in some of the country's power assets, Perez said 11 wanted to participate in the auction for Napocor's power plants or generation assets (gencos).

He, however, declined to identify the prospective bidders. Some of the names that had come up in the past included Marubeni Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Kanematsu Corp., Chubu Electric Power Co. and Sumitomo Corp.

Many of the Japanese firms are expected to bid for the 620-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, the first big Napocor genco that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) will be bidding out.

The bidding for the plant was scheduled for Nov. 24.

PSALM has so far privatized four of 35 Napocor gencos, all hydroelectric, that have been identified for privatization. These included the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur, and the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon.

Three other Japanese firms had firmed up interest in joining the Geothermal 1 bidding round.

The auction for 10 of the most lucrative geothermal sites in the country, as identified by the Department of Energy, will be held next month.

Technology and governance

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

DURING a weekly meeting of the Management Association of the Philippines Business Development Agribusiness and Countryside Development (ABCD) Foundation headed by Hector A. Quesada, the issue of technology transfer to farmers came up.

A major reason given for the lack of technology transfer is that the 17,000 agriculture extension workers originally with the Department of Agriculture (DA) were devolved to the provincial and municipal governments. Because of this, the extension workers often do not get new agricultural technologies or the proper direction. This is especially true where the governors or mayors have little appreciation for agriculture.

During this meeting, Gerry Valdez was the guest speaker. Valdez is an essential oil specialist, a director of the Organic Producers Trade Association (Opta) and the municipal administrator of Baras, Rizal. He talked of how organic farming technology transfer was a key governance component of Baras.

Pest aside, not pesticide

Valdez stated that, using organic farming, we can set pests aside without using pesticide. He cited the case of termites. We usually call the termite exterminator to spray our houses with the appropriate anti-termite chemicals. But if we had chickens roaming free in our backyards, we would not have needed these chemicals. This is because the chickens would have found and eaten the termites.

At the field level, organic agriculture can offer natural solutions to replace the now commonly used chemical based pesticides. Insects are scent-driven. If an agricultural field is planted in strategic locations with grass, bushes or trees that emit an aroma repulsive to the insects, they will stay away from that field. There would be no need for pesticides.

An example is the *kabling*. This is also called *suag-kabayo* or *suag-aso* in the Tagalog regions. *Suag* is the Tagalog word for avoidance behavior. It is as applicable to insects as it is to *kabayos* and *asos*. In the Visayas, this is known as *baho-baho*. The names deliver the message.

Another example is the use of biodiversity and ecological balance. To get rid of snails that destroy a crop, ducks rather than chemically based molluscides are recommended. The ducks will eat the snails. In addition, their droppings will contribute organic fertilizer and their eggs will provide additional nutrition or extra income.

Talking of fertilizers, do you know why the farmers from the Banaue highlands have big, wide feet? Valdez said it was because, instead of using chemical fertilizers, they use their feet to stamp on the left over rice stalk. This serves as the organic fertilizer for the next rice crop.

Technology thrust

Having previously served as vice mayor, Mayor Robles has intimate knowledge of his community's lack of job opportunities. In one *barangay*, 40 farmers have dwindled to two, leaving much agricultural land idle. The excessive use of chemical inputs rendered the land much less fertile. In addition, the rising cost of imported chemical inputs made farming simply unprofitable because of the depreciation of the peso.

Organic agriculture offered the opportunity of reinvigorating the land. It could also decrease the cost of inputs. Finally, since organic products command a higher price in the market, this would result in a profitable venture.

Mayor Robles convened the municipal council to pass a resolution identifying Baras as an organic zone. He is completing a tripartite agreement with the University of Rizal System and the Organic Producers Trade Association. They will help provide the research, technology, training and market links necessary to make Baras a model organic farming community. He has harnessed the agriculture extension workers to focus on this objective, rather than be distracted by misguided political priorities that occur today many municipalities.

Mayor Robles is reenergizing the largely inoperative Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Council (MAFC), which is the current status of the majority of MAFC's today. The MAFC is the legally mandated body, with private sector involvement, tasked to promote agricultural development. Mayor Robles intends to use the private sector in the technology transfer component of his governance. For those interested in the Baras model, please text or call Gerry Valdez at 0927-3702686.

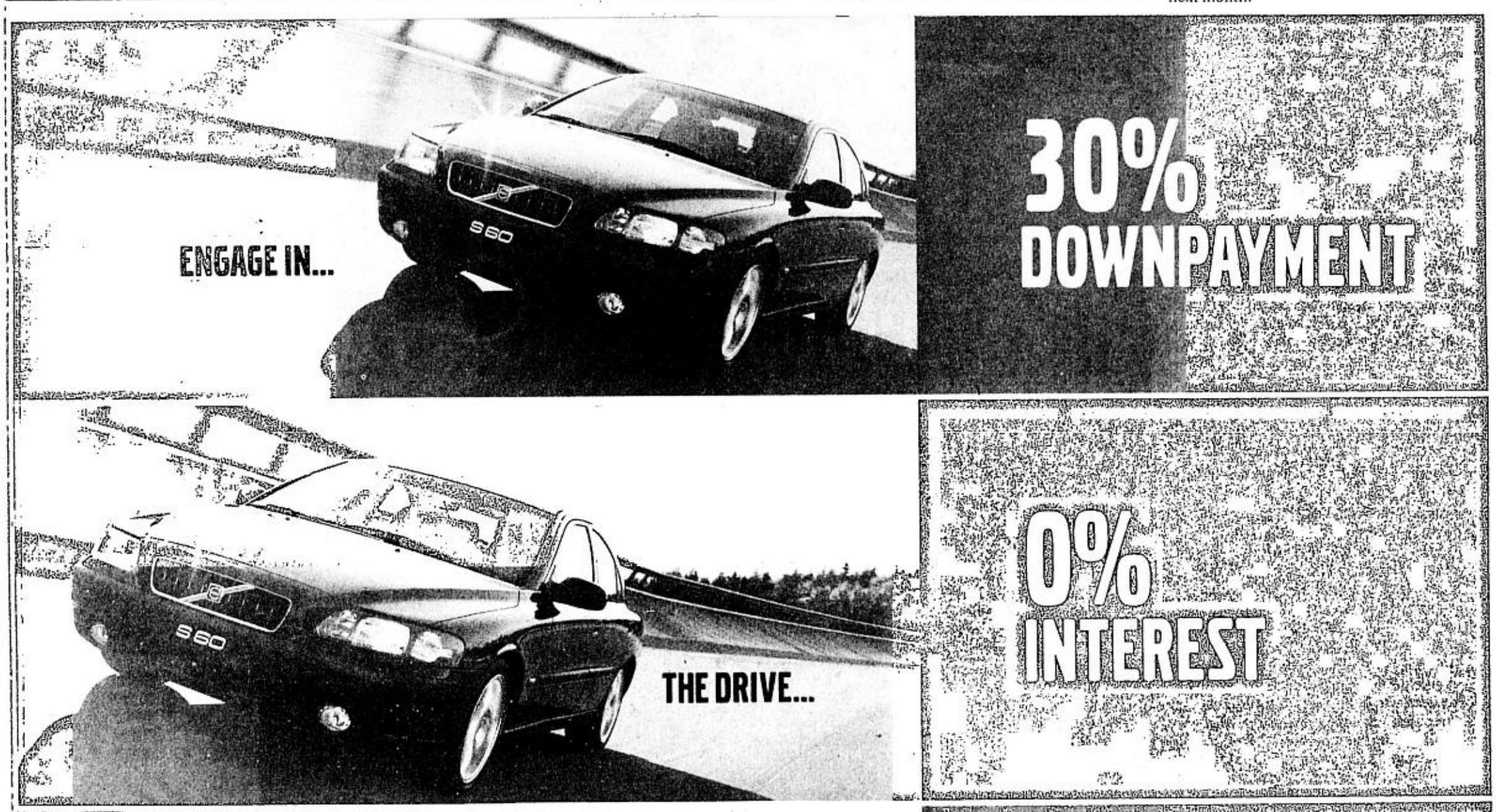
System of rice intensification (SRI)

Mayor Robles is not alone in using governance to promote agricultural technology transfer. Governor Erico Aumentado of Bohol has 24 towns in Bohol promoting SRI, which also favors an organic approach. He will do this technology transfer through his devolved extension workers under the leadership of agriculturist Lisa Quirog and agriculture officer Salvio Makinano.

These officials have recognized the value of SRI technology. In several countries, SRI has consistently shown an increased yield per hectare: Philippines—from 3 to 6 tons; Sri Lanka—2.5 to 5.3; Cambodia—2.7 to 4.8; Bangladesh—4.9 to 6.3 and Indonesia—5.0 to 7.4. Last April 16, when SRI was described in this same space and SRI Pilipinas Coordinator Roberto Versola's phone number was provided, calls from 67 provinces were received. This overwhelming response is one of the reasons behind the SRI national convention in UPLB next week from Oct. 28 to 30. Those interested in this convention's governance and SRI technology thrust may call Versola at 0919-6087073.

It is only when governance includes technology transfer in areas like organic farming and SRI that the technology talk will be translated into profitable action. It is now up to the governors and mayors, as well as their constituents who can motivate them, to take the next step.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)



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Telcos want overseas communications tax removed

By Michelle V. Remo

TELECOMMUNICATIONS companies are pushing for the removal of the 10 percent tax charged on overseas calls, saying it was too much of an administrative hassle.

Telecommunication companies currently pay a 10-percent Value Added Tax on revenue from local calls, and a 10-percent overseas communications tax from overseas calls.

What the industry wanted was to pay VAT on earnings from both local and overseas calls.

Both the OCT and the VAT have a rate of 10 percent, but VAT provides an input-output mechanism.

This means taxpayers can deduct the VAT they paid on purchases of services and products from their VAT liabilities.

Kathryn Ang-Zarate, tax planning head of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), said that paying two types of business tax—VAT and OCT—was difficult for telecommunication companies. She explained that while charges for OCT and VAT were itemized separately in billings to clients, official receipts do not reflect how much clients paid for OCT and how much for VAT.

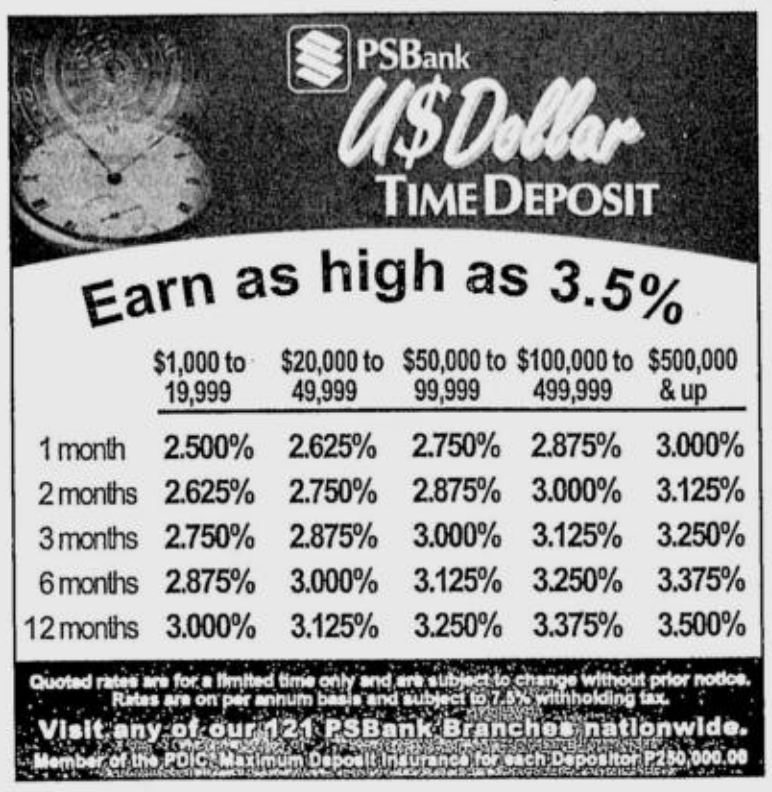
The problem starts when a subscriber/client claims input VAT credits earned from his payment of VAT on the telephone line service.

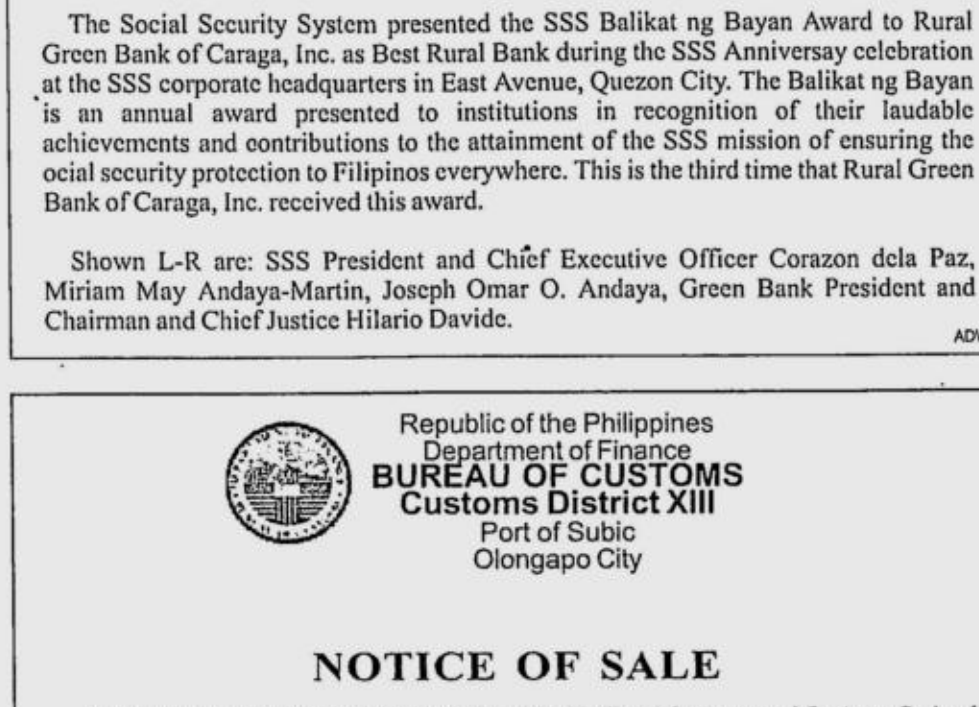
"Administratively, it is quite difficult for telcos to address that. Issuing two receipts (one that reflects VAT payments and the other that reflects OCT) had been suggested, but that would not be practical," Zarate, speaking for PLDT and other telecommunication companies, said yesterday in a public hearing on telecommunications industry taxation held at the BIR.

The BIR, on the other hand, was cool to the idea, as replacing the OCT with the VAT could result in a lower tax take for the government.

A BIR official also said the government could be questioned for collecting VAT from outgoing calls, because it can be considered an exported service.

Exports are exempt from VAT.





BEST RURAL BANK

The Social Security System presented the SSS Balikat ng Bayan Award to Rural Green Bank of Caraga, Inc. as Best Rural Bank during the SSS Anniversay celebration at the SSS corporate headquarters in East Avenue, Quezon City. The Balikat ng Bayan is an annual award presented to institutions in recognition of their laudable achievements and contributions to the attainment of the SSS mission of ensuring the ocial security protection to Filipinos everywhere. This is the third time that Rural Green Bank of Caraga, Inc. received this award.

Shown L-R are: SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon dela Paz, Miriam May Andaya-Martin, Joseph Omar O. Andaya, Green Bank President and Chairman and Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

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NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 as implemented by CMO 5-2003 dated 17 March 2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION (sealed bidding) on 27 October 2004 from 2:30 P.M. until terminated at Bldg. 303, Customs Clearance Area, Kalaklan Gate, Port of Subic of the hereunder listed lots. Said lots will be available for viewing on October 25 & 26, 2004. For further inquiry/particulars, please call the Office of the District Collector at Tel. No.(047)252-35-34 or Mr. NICOLAS E. YEE II, Chief, Auction and Cargo Disposal Unit at Tel. No. (047) 252-46-96.

Sale Lot No. 04-061 Consignee: Grand Fortune Trading A.P. No. 2003-06 1st Advertisement **Floor Price: ₱620,250.00**	827 sacks (50 kgs/sack) white sugar note: 6 sacks wet. **"AS IS WHERE IS"** Location: Bldg. 1076, NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 04-062 Consignee: GCC Logistics and Trading Corp. S.S.I. No. 2004-08 1st Advertisement **Floor Price: ₱3,321,450.00**	1,752 sacks (50 kgs./sack) white sugar 4,461 sacks (30 kgs./sack) white sugar note: 201 sacks in B.O. condition ***"Proceeds to be held in Trust"*** **"AS IS WHERE IS"** Location: Bldg 8119, Argonaut Highway, Boton, SBFZ & Old CCA Bldg. 556
Sale Lot No. 04-063 Consignee: GCC Logistics and Trading Corp. S.S.I. No. 2004-07 1st Advertisement **Floor Price: ₱540,000.00**	720 bags (50kgs/sack) white sugar ***"Proceeds to be held in Trust"*** **"AS IS WHERE IS"** Location : Security Warehouse Block 159
Sale Lot No. 04-064 Consignee: GCC Logistics and Trading Corp. S.S.I. No. 2003-46 1st Advertisement **Floor Price: ₱8,299,766.00**	88 cartons Printed Posters (Melawares) (125 pcs./carton) 575 cartons Best Ware plastic bowls (200 pcs./carton) 300 cartons Best Ware Cups (96 pcs./carton) 300 cartons Melaware Casserole Cover (64 pcs./carton) 8 cartons Casserole Set w/ Cover (24 sets/carton) 30 cartons Plastic Tumbler (240 pcs./carton) Made in China **"AS IS WHERE IS"** Location: Old CCA, Bldg. 556, SBFZ
Sale Lot No. 04-065 Abandoned 1st Advertisement **Floor Price: ₱5,000.00**	1unit Toyota Hi-AceVan"Super Custom" in junk condition. **"AS IS WHERE IS"** Location: Beside Old CCA, Bldg. 556, SBFZ

Note: Conditions/information common to sugar:
- Proceed to be held in trust
- Only CBW processors/exporters of sugar based products with SRA allocation for the year 2004 are qualified.
- Floor price excludes SRA Clearance Fee of P16.20/sack. Official Receipt to be presented prior to release.

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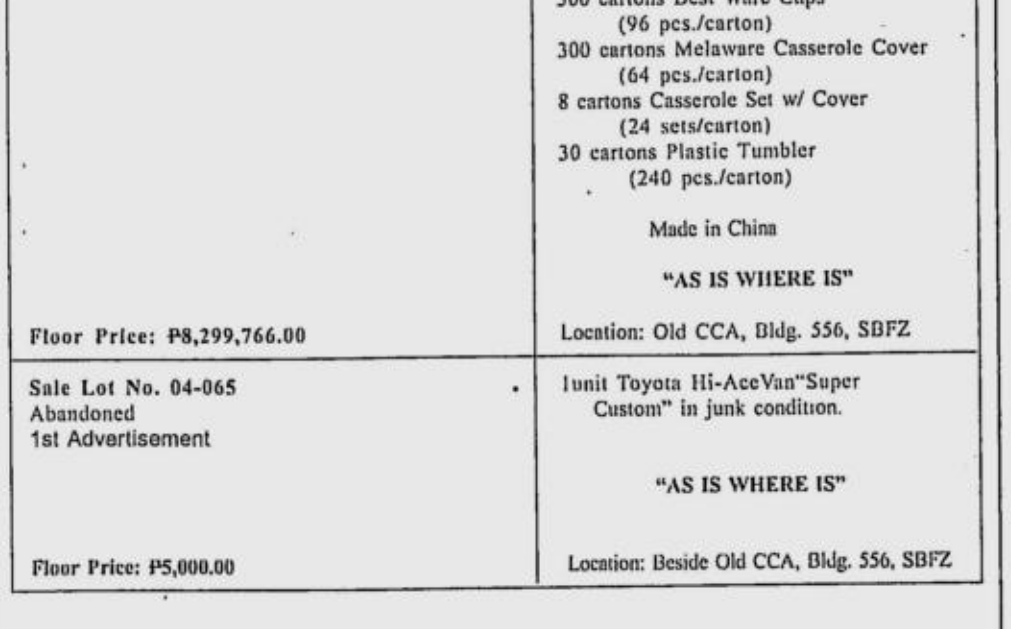


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004

Market Biz

BUSINESS Friday

To be sure, insure

By Joel L. Tan-Torres
and Cherry Vi M. Saldua
SGV & Co

ARE YOU tired of getting calls from insurance agents convincing you to get life insurance policies from them? If you did get insurance, do you find it hard to pay the quarterly premium and are you sorry every time that you have to pay?

Think again.

The death of a loved one is a cause of great sorrow and grief. In these times when you're at your lowest point, the last thing on your mind is worrying about the necessary papers and various expenses to be paid, including estate taxes. You don't even know if the papers your loved one has left are complete and if the amount of estate taxes that you're paying is correct! Like the death of a loved one, these matters come like a thief in the night. And the worst thing is, unless the properties left can be converted immediately to cash, the great question arises: Where will the money come from to pay for all these things?

TAX-FILES

Benefits of life insurance

Life insurance can lessen these problems during these trying times. Life insurance proceeds will enable one to meet various death-related expenses, such as repayment of debts, payment of estate taxes, probate costs, last illness costs, and funeral expenses. With life insurance proceeds, there may be no need to sell assets (land, cars, jewelry, etc.) prematurely and with a huge price cut. There is no need to swallow the bitter pill of high interest rates from the neighborhood moneylender.

There is no need to ask friends and relatives for financial assistance. Best of all, life insurance proceeds can be tax-free.

The taxability of insurance proceeds will depend on whether the designation of the beneficiary is revocable or irrevocable. If revocable, the proceeds of a life insurance policy form part of the gross estate of the insured upon death, even if he/she failed to exercise the option to revoke that designation. As part of the estate, the said insurance proceeds are subject to the estate tax. For example, if a decedent left a net estate of P4 million (let's assume this all came from life insurance proceeds), the estate tax will amount to P355,000.

Since the estate tax return needs to be filed within six months from the decedent's death, the estate's administrator has to pay this amount within six months. This may not be easy to do if the administrator has various death-related expenses to settle and he is not able to get cash left in the estate. On the other hand, if the beneficiary is irrevocably designated, the right to the proceeds of the life insurance policy, upon the death of insured immediately vests on the beneficiary, unless the beneficiary is the estate of the decedent, his executor, or administrator. In this case, said proceeds no longer form part of the gross estate of the deceased and are not subject to estate tax. Using our example, that's savings of P355,000 outright.

Life insurance as FWP tool

As explained earlier, if the beneficiary is irrevocably designated, the life insurance proceeds are not subject to estate tax. Aside from saving estate taxes on the insurance proceeds, this will also help meet death-related expenses. If one is looking for a worthwhile investment and effective family wealth protection tool, it would also be a good move to get life insurance policies with large proceeds.

As compared to making investments in land, investing in life insurance is easier to handle. It is easier to pay since premiums may be paid on a staggered basis (it's just like saving your earnings little by little in a bank), and if you die before paying all the premiums, usually the entire premiums are considered as fully paid and the beneficiary still gets the entire proceeds. If you buy land, you have to pay the price outright or get a loan and pay interest, which is almost equivalent to the price of the land. You do not need to pay taxes while you are paying insurance premiums [except for documentary stamps tax (DST)] unlike land where you have to regularly pay real estate tax, among others. The insurance proceeds are fixed and may even double if death is by accident. It also gives a relatively high and sure return on investment—the amount of premiums is low in relation to the proceeds. This is unlike land whose value may be volatile (it is hard to predict if it will depreciate or if it will appreciate, how long you have to hold on to it before you earn profits, etc.). If land is transferred through the estate, your heirs will have to go through a lot of paperwork and pay various transfer taxes, including estate tax, unlike insurance proceeds, which, as mentioned earlier, are automatically vested on the beneficiary and are not subject to estate tax if the beneficiary is irrevocably designated.

Life insurance probably ranks the highest among the FWP tools when it comes to ease of execution.

However, the downside would be that you cannot change the beneficiaries whom you designated as irrevocable if and when they lose your good graces and you would not want them to be your beneficiaries anymore.

Your events marketing need to be strategic, too

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

THE CHALLENGE to bring brands closer to the consumer has spawned a plethora of events and an industry of event organizers.

Where brand experience is the cornerstone of events, it is not uncommon for marketers to fall into the execution trap, overwhelmed by the design, roster of personalities and the seemingly glitz and glamour of events while failing to understand, and even overlooking ing the brand's strategic fit to the event.

Experience marketing, through events, can be a competitive advantage yet without strategy, can lead to a commodity-like rather than differentiating experience.

Following are ways to avoid the event execution trap:.

Watch out for the brand fit. Does the event match and enhance the brand's essence, personality and value proposition? McDonalds in recent years has openly supported the value of healthy eating and lifestyle. Capping this brand statement is their event sponsorship of the Athens 2004 Olympic, a yearlong activity for the Golden Arches that began in 2003 when McDonald's 1.3 million crew worldwide was given the opportunity to become a member of the McDonald's Olympic champion crew. Participating McDonald's outlets hosted localized competitions to select the best of their best crew along the same ideals of the Olympic games—quality, speed, accuracy, teamwork and service. The incentive—a chance to be honored in Athens at a special pre-games event and the opportunity to help serve the world's greatest athletes, attend Olympic events and participate in special activities.

Connect with your target market, not just be where they are. Consumers have become too discriminating that simply unrolling a streamer onsite or setting up a merchandising booth in an event is no longer that much effective. Has your brand ingratiated itself with the target market by making them feel that you are an active part of their experience and their culture rather than a mere company logo in their event?

The Sprite Urban Games in Clapham Common in London this July was a fusion between, fashion, sports, lifestyle and music.

WITHOUT strategy, events marketing can lead to a commodity-like rather than differentiating experience.

The event included skateboarding competitions, free style motocross (FMX), B-boy break dancing, BMX, among others. Sprite, whose lifestyle differentiation to Coke, is to be accepted by edgers, and are traditionally anti-corporate and anti-establishment youths, has evolved its brand by focusing on this youth market rather than the mainstream or conformist young. In so doing, the new look of its can was designed by an urban artist using graffiti style logo. Marketers must learn to use events in ways that make the brand experience memorable thus, enhancing consumer experience while contributing to the target market's culture rather than just grabbing a share of their pocket power.

Choose the realm of experience. Are you creating emotional excitement and sensorial experiences simply around your brand's event or are you once again just a logo, streamer or booth display?

Pine and Gilmore, authors of The Experience Economy offers four dimensions of experience that brand marketers can singly or multi-dimensionally capitalize on when staging events - entertainment, education, aesthetic and escapism.

Entertainment involves a target market's passive participation in the event. Sponsorships of concerts or stage plays that limit brand experience to buntings and booth displays and service encounters during intermissions is an example of entertainment.

The next is educational where the target market acquires or increases skills or knowledge. These include interpretive write-ups in event programs, pre-event or post-event lectures and sponsorships of learning events like Philippine Daily Inquirer 's recently organized Cannes 2004 in Manila event.

The third dimension is aesthetic where the target market experiences greater sensory stimulus brought about by the authenticity of the locale and details in the event design. An example is Cerveza Negra's "Seize The Night, Enjoy The Dark" by invitation only bar tour that toasts the passionate aficionados of culture, arts and sports—artists, entertainers, indoor and outdoor sports enthusiasts, water sports buff and car racers. The event is both a testament to the brand's premium, distinctively rich, flavorful and touted mysterious dark taste as well as to the brand's multi-faceted target market.

Escapism is the fourth dimension of experience marketing. Here, the target market actively participates in the experience. For example McDonald's children's summer programs in selected outlets allow "tweens" and young kids for a limited number of hours to become part of the McDonald's crew. Thus, kids learn at a young age the value of service in a fun way and in a fun environment.

Another is Dove Soap's way of celebrating the woman with Dove Moments, an event capitalizing on the importance of a healthy mind and body. Groups of women did not just get to experience Dove Cream bar, facial wash, body wash but became part of a brand event that allowed them a four-night, five-day luxury cruise while they spent some time engaged in health and wellness activities.

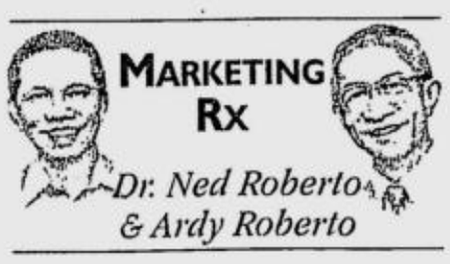
Provide a positive impression; take away the negatives. Has your target market talked about your brand event in an animated, positive way? Are they looking forward to and planning to join next year's event?

The memorability of an experience is measured by the consumer's overall attitude towards the brand event after the experience. This is aided by the authenticity of their experience. Consumers are quick to catch negative cues that do not fit well with the brand's essence. Popular personalities can overshadow brands specially if they do not fit well with the brand personality. Likewise, surly merchandisers and front-liners can destroy brand image and experience. Likewise, this includes unprofessional hosts and unpleasant wordings in signages. All these can spoil the brand experience. Brands must pay attention to details.

Today, brand events can have as much power in building or destroying brands. Just like advertising, incorrect choices and mishandling of event experiences can be a costly misstep.

(The author is chief learning officer of Marketing Knowledge Series Training and Consultancy. Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)

'How does a local brand maintain market leadership?'



HERE'S an interesting marketing case. Eugene Go, VP for marketing at Unitrade, the company that markets and sells EQ Dry Baby Diapers, writes:

Q: "We've fought with the giants like Kimberly Clark and P&G in the baby diaper market and emerged victorious. It's a neck-to-neck fight for market leadership between EQ and P&G's Pampers. Kimberly Clark with its Huggies and Kimbies is a very far No. 3. It was in the months of May till October last year, when EQ occupied the front seat of the baby diaper market, dislodging no less than Pampers Comfort of P&G. It has since been a neck-to-neck battle between P&G and Unitrade.

Here's our current unresolved marketing challenge: How does a local brand maintain market leadership in a market where you are up against the multinational giants like P&G considering their vast resources both locally and globally?"

A: This is a simple as well as a complicated case. Therefore, there's a simple answer to the "challenge" and a complex one.

The simple diagnosis of the EQ success in attaining market leadership draws from benchmarking against the past. EQ succeeded because of what it had done in the past, and (more importantly) what the global competitor brands did in response. So the simple MRx is this. You can "maintain market leadership in a market where you are up against the multinational giants like P&G considering their vast resources both locally and globally" if you can continue doing what you've been doing, and (more importantly) if your competitor multinational giants especially P&G will do what they did in response to your taking leadership.

So what did you do, and (more importantly) what did P&G do in response? Can you go on doing what you did? Will P&G go on doing what it did or will it start taking you on seriously? Answering these questions requires market data. We don't have those data but you have. So get back to them and reanalyze, rediagnose.

Of course, the situation may not be that simple. Consider, for example, the marketing metric you're using to measure market leadership. Share of market is that metric and it's a simple enough metric although even here practice distinguishes between "volume" or unit market share and "value" or peso market share. A brand's volume market share is equal to its unit sales divided by the product category's total unit sales. A brand value market share is its peso sales divided by the category's total peso sales. Those are the trade audit definitions.

Usage frequency

Where is your market leadership coming from?

In market survey research like the UAI (usage, attitude, image) study, market share is the percent of total category users surveyed using your brand most often. That's akin to the trade aud it's volume market share. It's assuming that the category users surveyed are buying the same number of units. If they are not, then make the necessary adjustment by factoring in the different usage frequency. Incidentally, during the recently concluded Philippine Retailers Association conference last Aug. 13, 2004, this was what the senior MRx-er suggested shopping malls like SM Megamall versus Greenbelt do in measuring their market share of the malling market. A study shows more people go to SM but people who shop in Greenbelt buy more often and do bigger purchases.

Anyway, what we're saying is it's worth asking for your EQ baby diaper brand: "Is its market leadership coming from higher volume sales, that is, more units sold? Is it also market leader in value sales, that is, in spite of its lower price?"

This is the same as asking the segmentation question: "Is EQ's market leadership in the price segment of the market only in price or in both price and premium segments?" And here's where you have to consider the second complication in your diagnosis of your stated "unresolved marketing challenge."

A quick check with Rustan Supermarket's Online Grocery Store shows:

EQ Diaper Budget Pack (Large in 12's) sells for P88.25 or P7.35 per pad.

Pampers Comfort Diapers (Large in 12's) sell for P107.50 or P8.58 per pad.

What's immediately obvious from these price data is that the baby diaper market is price segmented into the economy (or price) segment and the premium segment. The economy segment includes: Kimbies Plus Diaper (Large in 28's) priced at P200.90 or P7.18 per pad; and Huggies Dri Fit Diaper (Large in 4's) priced at P29.90 or P7.48 per pad. On the other hand, the premium segment also has Huggies Dri Fit with Dry Soft Cover (Large in 12's) priced at P98.90 or 8.24 per pad; and Drypers WeeWee Dry Disposable Diapers (Large in 24's) priced at P206 or 8.58 per pad.

This price segmentation of the market means when you talk about market leadership, you should make it clear in what price market segment your brand is a leader in. That's the same as saying what market segment accepts you as their favorite brand. So re-tabulate your market share ratios by segments and you can validate this proposition.

Benchmark, analyze market data

Recalibrating your market leadership metrics is not just a matter of being accurate. This has strategic implication to your "unresolved marketing challenge." Should P&G decide they ought to enter the price segment with a price brand and maintain their Pampers as the leader brand in the premium segment, well, well, now you're in for a marketing fight of your life! Of course, the way to counter this competitive move is for you to enter the premium segment with your own premium brand. But is this counter within your resources and capability? You implicitly admitted in your e-mail that you're not a "multinational giant like P&G" who has "vast resources both locally and globally." If you can't do this in the way that P&G can enter your price segment, then you can appreciate the high likelihood that you cannot maintain your market leadership once P&G starts moving in the direction we predicted.

So here's the summary of our MRx's for you to cope with your situation:

Start with the simple diagnosis. Benchmark against the past and learn what you did to be successful relative to your competitors' responses. Then ask these two related questions:

1) Can you continue doing what you did in attaining success or market leadership?

2) Will your global competitors continue responding in the way they did in that past period or will they take you up and respond the way they typically do against a threat?

Then shift to a more realistic although a bit more complicated diagnosis.

- Start with a clearer calibration of your marketing metric for market leadership. Is your market leadership one of volume (or unit) market share or one of value (or peso) market share?
- Next, analyze your market data with respect to price segmentation and locate where or in what segment your market leadership is located.

1) If you're a leader brand in the price segment (which is usually the case of a local brand competing with a global brand), then consider the likelihood of your competitor global brand now entering the price segment with its own price brand to compete against your own price brand.

2) If you have to counter this move by yourself challenging them in the premium segment (which is the typical case), honestly assess the required resources and capability for your bringing into the premium segment your own premium brand to compete against the global competitor's premium brand.

(E-mail your questions or comments to eroberto@edsamail.com.ph .Or text at 0919-314-5412.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 21, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	3	3	3	3	21,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	75,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46	1,063,200
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	2,210
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	43	42.5	43	16,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.42	910,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	44,000
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	1,250
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	100
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	9,800
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	5,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	440,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	27,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	11,995,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1050	1050	1025	1030	28,160
Ipeople Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	153,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	2,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.12	2.16	2.12	2.16	6,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.42	8,140,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1400	1405	1370	1375	99,660
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	2,780,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	79,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	37,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	234,400
Petron Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	6,893,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	177,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.2	5.2	5	5	2,105,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	720,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	2,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.34	2.38	2.3	2.3	3,887,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	52,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	498,200
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	29,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.5	342,200
Universal Robina Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	33,000
Vitarich Corp	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	16,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6,429,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	3,943,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	5,200,000
A. Soriano Corp	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	221,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	130,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	16	16	50,500
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.61	0.57	0.58	54,990,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.165	0.165	0.155	0.155	4,840,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.9	15,852,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4	4.1	4	4	121,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	27	27	26.5	26.5	260,100
Global Equities Inc	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.52	1.56	950,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	62,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	882,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.41	0.42	46,810,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,550,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	310,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	78,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	2,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	150,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	1,720,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.98	0.75	0.75	1,900,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.67	0.77	0.65	0.65	720,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	30,000
Premiere Ent' Prod. Inc	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	610,000
Phillippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	55,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	659,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc	7	7.1	7	7	12,728,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	1,450,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	6,670,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	2,080,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	11,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	324,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	160,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	1,000,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	9,950,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.1	3.9	3.1	3.8	1,409,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	82,000
Benguet Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	2,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	510,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	27,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	110,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	93,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.46	920,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.51	2,180,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.155	0.155	0.145	0.145	120,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.004	0.0036	0.004	36,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	65,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	51,000
Semphil Corp	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	2,200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	310,000

EU carriers want more flights to RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

EUROPEAN carriers are reviving interests in the Philippines and are asking the government to allow them to fly more frequently to Manila despite overriding concerns on continued increases in fuel prices.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines officials yesterday said that they would ask the government to grant them additional entitlements so they could fly daily from Manila to Amsterdam instead of the five times weekly schedule.

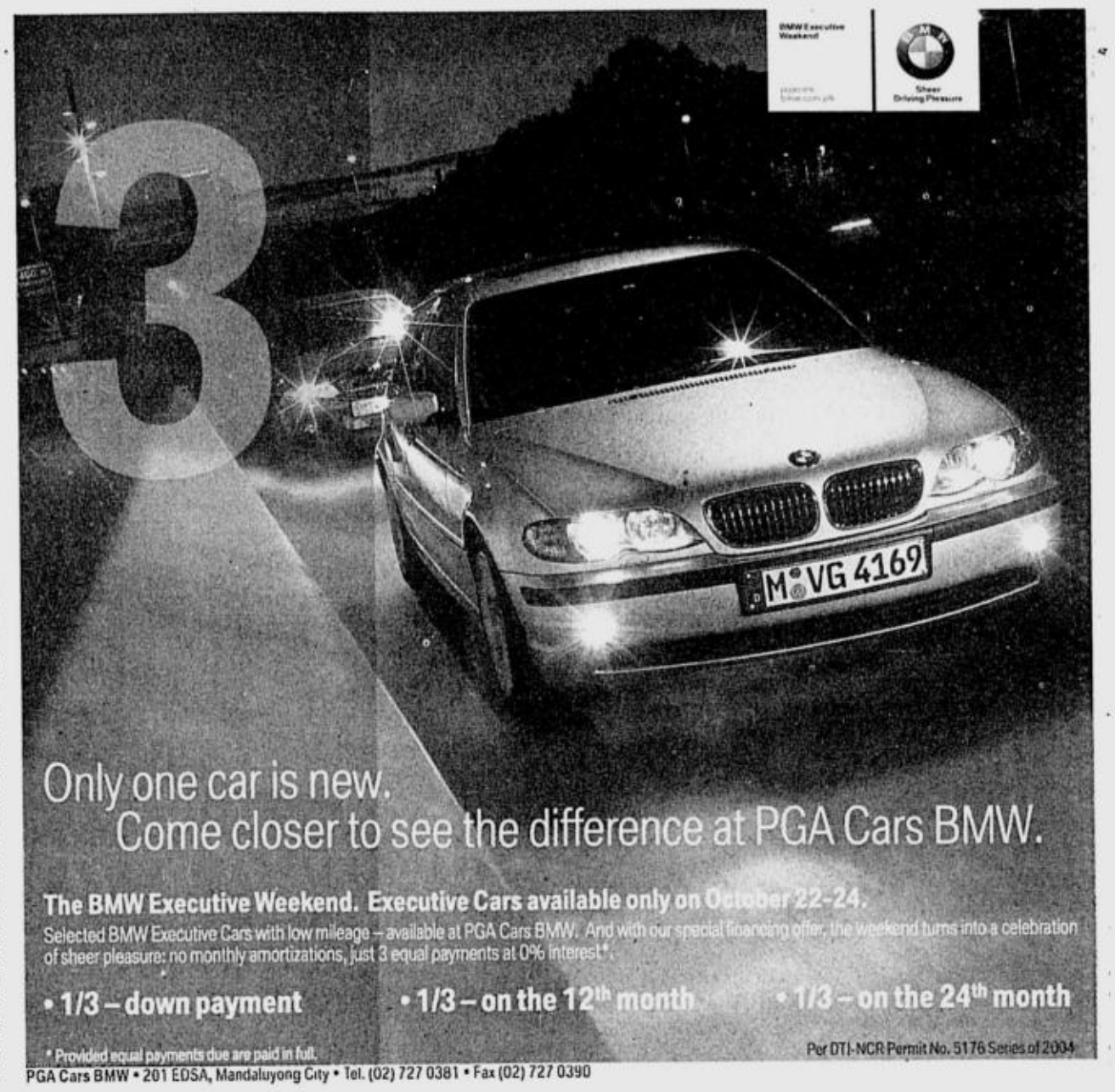
"The Philippine market is growing, and we see enormous growth in both inbound and outbound traffic," said KLM executive vice president Paul Gregorowitsch. "We hope the government would grant us additional entitlements."

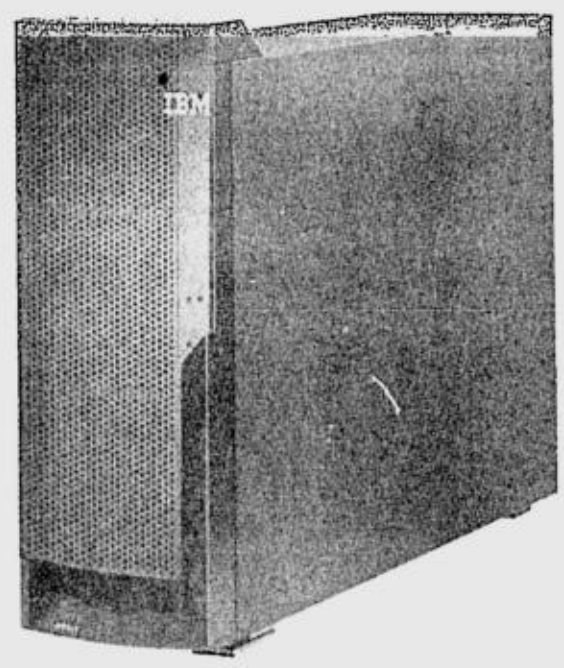
In 1998, there were eight airlines serving the Manila-Europe route aside from the Philippine Airlines. Today, the only ones left are Air France, KLM and Lufthansa, and they fly less than 20 times weekly from only a few European cities. The Manila-Europe route, according to sources, was taken over by Middle East carriers that were granted lavish entitlements and were able to offer cheaper rates.

With KLM's merger with Air France last May, the Manila to Paris trips may have to be scrapped in favor of more frequent Manila to Amsterdam flights.

Officials of the two carriers assured their companies would try to hold off further increases in air fares despite continued price hikes in aviation fuel. Both carriers sought an additional 20 to 25 euros, or P1,411.60 to P1,764.50, in fuel surcharge for their flights from Manila.

Air France and KLM hope to introduce a non-stop flight to Europe starting Nov. 1. Gregorowitsch said KLM had dedicated one 327-seater Boeing 777.





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DISCLOSURES

A. SORIANO Corp.'s 251,000 shares were recently bought by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp.

* * *

JARDINE Davies Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Dec. 6, 10 a.m. at the JDI Lounge, 4/F of JDI Building, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 4 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. (PEP) said that its share swap agreement with shareholders of Next Mobile Inc. (NMI) last March 9 will be terminated unless terms are extended because until now no shares have been issued by PEP and NMI shareholders to each other.

* * *

MEMBERS of **Philippine Estates Corp.**'s audit committee are Arthur Lopez, Yolanda dela Cruz, Angel Umali and Dee Hua Gatchalian. Remuneration committee members are Renato Magadia, Lisandro Abadia and Gatchalian while nomination committee members are Gatchalian, Lopez and Kenneth Gatchalian. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 21, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.794407	1.000000	56.3220
Japan	Yen	0.007340	0.009240	0.5204
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444312	1.818100	102.3990
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102023	0.128426	7.2332
Switzerland	Franc	0.650195	0.818465	46.0976
Canada	Dollar	0.638129	0.803277	45.2422
Singapore	Dollar	0.475039	0.597979	33.6794
Australia	Dollar	0.584854	0.736214	41.4650
Bahrain	Dinar	2.107237	2.652590	149.3992
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211842	0.266667	15.0192
Brunei	Dollar	0.473622	0.596196	33.5790
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019240	0.024219	1.3641
UAE	Dirham	0.216295	0.272272	15.3349
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.258800	70.8981
Argentina	Peso	0.268155	0.337553	19.0117
Brazil	Real	0.275454	0.346741	19.5291
Denmark	Kroner	0.134440	0.169233	9.5315
India	Rupee	0.017364	0.021858	1.2311
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209082	0.263193	14.8236
Mexico	New Peso	0.069244	0.087164	4.9093
New Zealand	Dollar	0.549801	0.692089	38.9798
Norway	Kroner	0.121512	0.152959	8.6150
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013142	0.016543	0.9317
South Africa	Rand	0.126297	0.158983	8.9542
Korea	Won	0.000696	0.000876	0.0493
Sweden	Kroner	0.110371	0.138935	7.8251
Syria	Pound	0.015404	0.019391	1.0921
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023503	0.029586	1.6663
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000415	0.000522	0.0294

Treating anorexia nervosa

ANOREXIA nervosa is a psychological disorder characterized by voluntary starvation. The anxiety of gaining weight, cautious avoidance of food and extreme weight loss are some of the early manifestations of this condition.

Although the causes of anorexia nervosa are still unknown, social pressures play an important factor in its occurrence. Victims of anorexia are usually those who are very conscious about their physical appearance. Most of them are intelligent, compulsive, meticulous, and success driven. Females are more likely to develop anorexia than males.

Anorexic individuals suffer from an extreme loss of nutrients. Multivitamins are essential to hasten the patient's recovery.

Buclizine with vitamin B complex and iron (available as Propan with Iron) nourishes the body with essential nutrients as it enhances the appetite.

Iron plays an essential role in respiration and is considered as the "backbone of the energy producing process." It helps produce collagen and elastin (needed for integrity of connective tissue) maintain the immune system and protects against oxidant damage. It also acts as producer and regulator of brain neurotransmitters.

Buclizine with iron is also rich in vitamin B-complex. Thiamine (Vitamin B1) plays a significant role in carbohydrate metabolism. It helps maintain appetite, normal intestinal function and the health of cardiovascular and nervous system. Niacin functions as preventive of pellagra (skin affection characterized by redness, scaling and shedding with gastrointestinal disturbance). Niacin insufficiency causes skin disease, diarrhea, dementia (mental disorder caused by brain malfunction) and death.

Furthermore, the vitamin B6 group (pyridoxine, pyridoxal and pyridoximine) combines with phosphorous for fatty acid, amino acid and glucose metabolism. Vitamin B6 deficiency causes central nervous system disturbances, while vitamin B12 and closely related cobalamine function as protein synthesizer. Inadequacy of vitamin B12 causes nervous system degeneration, amenorrhea (irregular menstrual cycle) and pernicious anemia.

Aside from providing essential vitamins, it also acts as an appetite booster especially among adults. Buclizine is a tested appetite booster for 30 years now. Anemic, pulmonary tubeculosis (PTB) and convalescent patients can also benefit from buclizine with iron, which is proven to be safe, effective and well tolerated. Adults are advised to take the appetite booster (which comes in capsule form) twice a day for better results. It is locally distributed by Pascual Laboratories Inc.

For more information on the benefits of buclizine, call the propan hotline at 426-5639 or e-mail multiline@pascuallab.com from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration, Region 13, Bancasi, Butuan City invites eligible bidders of the Drainage Improvement of Simulao River Irrigation System located at Trento, Agusan del Sur under GAA Fund-101 CY 2003 through competitive bidding under IRR-A of RA-9184, allocation under accounts payable scheme in accordance with the hereunder work packages

Package No.	Quantity (cu.m.)	Approved Budget for Contract to be bid	Maximum days to Complete	Contractor's Category
Package I LMC-Dr. 01-04	67,952	P 6,889,653.28	234	Medium A

Bidding Date November 18, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.
Bidding Place NIA, Regional 13 Office, Bancasi, Butuan City
Minimum Equipment Required (owned or leased)
Package I – 3 units backhoe excavator with bucket capacity of 0.70-1.0 cu.m.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidders starting **October 26, 2004** upon a non-refundable payment of P2,000.00.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on **November 08, 2004** at NIA-13, Bancasi, Butuan City at 10:00 A.M.

All bids mus be accompanied by a Security Bid Bond any form of the following in a minimum amount in % of the Approved Budget for contract to be bid.

1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, bankdraft, or irrevocable Letter of Credit — 1% of ABC
2. Bank Guarantee — 1 ½ % of ABC
3. Surety Bond — 2 ½ % of ABC

Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding date in the presence of participating bidder/representative who choose to attend. For detailed information, please call (085) 342-3000 or (085) 226-4954, E-mail: niacaraga@skyinet.net.

The Bids and Award Committee (BAC), NIA-Region 13, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality assumed no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest calculated evaluated and responsive bid.

The eligibility requirements with Letter of Intent (LOI) shall be submitted to the BAC in a sealed eligibility envelope and shall be opened before the date of pre-bid conference and bid opening to determine the eligibility of prospective bidders

(Sgd.) JOHNNY V. EMMANUEL, CESO V
Regional Irrigation Manager

(PDI – October 16 & 22, 2004

HYATT HOTEL, CASINO MANILA NOW MADE EVEN MORE INVITING

Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, known for its sophisticated ambience, exceptionally comfortable accommodations and new-generation casino, and JohnsonDiversey, one of the world's leading providers of cleaning and hygiene solutions have, entered into a partnership to ensure that guests and clients continuously enjoy the hotel's comfortable and fresh surroundings. The two giants of the service industry have agreed to jointly develop a program to maintain a well-sanitized and hygienic environment in the hotel's facilities as well as in the preparation of food and beverage. Under the agreement, Hyatt employees will be trained and supervised by JohnsonDiversey in various aspects of the program for maintaining sanitation and cleanliness including training on US-based ServSafe food safety programs with an emphasis on providing the best of pleasurable, clean and safe services to hotel guests and clients. Shown, from left, are Gottfried Bogensperger, Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila general manager, and JohnsonDiversey managing director Marites Dagdag signing the memorandum of agreement that will ensure pleasurable, clean and safe services for Hyatt guests and clients.

Jerry Liao's POWER TIPS

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Now you can! With this seminar, learn to work faster, better and more efficiently by harnessing the power, capabilities and magic of Microsoft Office applications.

The Sessions: October 25, 2004, Isla Ballroom, Edsa-Shangri-La Hotel

Morning Session for Faculty and Students
7:30 am- 12:00 nn
Academe Rate: P495

Afternoon Session for Business Community
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Ticket Price: P995

Present valid ID to avail of special academe rates. Tickets are available at all SM TicketNet outlets TICKETNET

The Speaker

Jerry Liao has been in the I.T. industry for the past 22 years as an I.T. and media practitioner. A certified Microsoft Office specialist, he has interviewed I.T. luminaries like Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, Sun CEO Scott McNealy, and Intel CEO Craig Barrett, among others.

Participants will receive a certificate of attendance from Microsoft.
Special prizes also await lucky participants!

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UP Manila grand reunion

CATCH up with old friends and relive the good old days at *peyups*. The University of the Philippines-Manila Alumni Association invites all UP-Manila alumni to "Balik Tanaw sa Patuloy na Kagalingan" Grand Reunion starting 6 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Manila Hotel onboard the M/S Philippines floating restaurant, Rizal Park, Manila. This year's grand reunion, hosted by the UP College of Dentistry Alumni Association, covers the alumni from the UP Colleges of Allied Medical Professions, Arts and Sciences, Pharmacy, Public Health, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, the National Teacher Training Center for the Health Profession and the UP-PGH Medical Health Center. Health Secretary Dr. Manuel Dayrit is guest speaker. For details, call Dr. Tristan Ramos, UPCD college secretary at 302-6360.

'Florante at Laura' staged

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation (GTF), together with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), continues its quest for artistic excellence and leadership in the Philippine contemporary scene via Francisco Balagtas' "Florante at Laura", staged in the form of the Filipino *komedya*. This *awit* by Balagtas, believed to be written by the poet during his prison term, is an enduring metrical Filipino romance that embodies humility, courtesy, religion of love, Tagalog style told in 399 12-syllable quatrains. Performances are on Oct. 22, 23 and 24 (10 a.m./2 p.m., AFP Theater, Quezon City), and Nov. 5 and 6 (10 a.m./2 p.m., RFC Cinema Theater, Las Piñas City). Call 899-5745 or 896-3503 for tickets.

Colayco seminar slated

THE COLAYCO Foundation for Education Inc headed by Francisco J. Colayco, author of the best-selling book "Wealth Within Your Reach—Pera Mo Palaguin Mo", will conduct a five-hour seminar on financial modules/topics together with other financial experts. Colayco has been presenting a series of "Kalayaan sa Kakapusan (KSK)" seminars in Hong Kong for the OFW sector, imparting to Filipinos the great advocacy of financial fitness. Colayco's mission is to educate the working class, OFWs and their families and students that financial independence is within everyone's reach. The KSK seminar will be held at the Function B Conference Room of SM Megatrade Hall, Ortigas Complex, Edsa, Mandaluyong City on Nov. 13. For inquiries, call 435-0265, 435-0556, 435-0185 or text KSK at 0917-8537333 or e-mail colaycofoundation@yahoo.com, or log on to www.cfeksk.com.

AD/HD nat'l conference

THE AD/HD Society of the Philippines will be holding its 2nd National Conference on AD/HD titled "AD/HD: Focusing on Medical and Educational Issues" from Oct. 21 to 23 at the Tent of the Plaza Car Park, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. The conference will have as its main speakers Dr. Harlan Gephart, former medical director of the Center for Attentional Deficit Disorders in Redmond, Washington, and Sandra Reif, award-winning educator author and lecturer. AD/HD affects 3 to 4 percent of all children, and is often left undiagnosed and, at worst, misunderstood. The conference highlights this year's observance of National Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Week from Oct. 17 to 23. For inquiries, call Yna Sorongon at the conference secretariat at 726-1550 or 726-0606 or the AD/HD Society office at 927-3463 and 426-6001 local 4649.

Snack fest with Benby, LG Electonics

HAVE a taste of delicious snack treats from Benby Enterprises-warm and chewy Keebler Soft Batch cookies and freshly popped Act II Microwave Popcorn-cooked to perfection using LG Microwave Oven at the LG and Keebler Act II Nationwide Sampling Tour. The Act II Popcorn sampling continues at Rustan's Supermarkets (Rockwell, Shangri-la and Katipunan) from Oct. 21 to 24. The next leg of the sampling activity will be on Oct. 30 and 31 at Pioneer Center, Makati Supermarket and Unimart. The provincial sampling starts Oct. 23 and 24 at Cebu's Rustan's Supermarket, Gaisano Country Mall Supermarket and Fooda Saversmart. LG Electronics goal is to enable the intelligent networking of digital products that will make consumers lives easier than ever. For more information, log on to www.lge.com or call the LG customer information center 640-2525.

Globequest 1st TUGP golf tourney

GLOBEQUEST presents the 1st TUGP Golf Tournament on Oct. 22 at The Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite. This event seeks to establish and strengthen ties among members of the Telecommunications Users Group of the Philippines (TUGP), a non-stock non-profit professional organization of many of the country's largest corporate telecoms users existing in a cooperative set-up, and other vital sectors of the industry. Globequest is one of the three carrier partners of TUGP. Last July 28, TUGP and Globequest also held a seminar on the Basics of Outsourcing in response to the clamor in the industry for credible information on the growing trend of outsourcing. For inquiries, call the TUGP secretariat at 893-7548 or e-mail the TUGP executive director Vida Valverde at vmvalverde@tugp.org.ph. For more information on TUGP, log on to www.tugp.org.ph.

BITS Clips

Cilect-UP Film Institute workshop

THE UP Film Institute will be conducting a Screenwriting Workshop for Teachers in cooperation with Cilect (Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinema et de Television) or the International Film Schools Association. The workshop will be held from Oct. 22 to 29 and will be conducted by Chris McGill, filmmaker, teacher and principal lecturer of the Victorian College of Arts in Melbourne, Australia. The workshop provides vast opportunities and open doors to would-be participants as it entails a scope and extent not yet achieved nor attempted by previous screenwriting workshops held in the country. For details, call the UP Film Institute at 925-0286 or 926-3640, telefax 926-2722.

Educators at PEEC

THE CENTER for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE) and Nestle Waters Philippines, in their commitment towards preserving water resources through education, will hold the First Philippine Educators for the Environment Conference (PEEC) on Oct. 22 and 23 at the Institute of Social Order, ISO Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City. PEEC aims to give participants a solid definition of Environmental Education with its theme "How Are You, EE?" Interested educators are invited to the open house sessions on Oct. 22 and 23. For more information, call CEAE at 721-7360.

German products at Glorietta

AVID shoppers are invited again to witness the wide array of German products and services at the "Germany…it's more than you think" exhibition, which will be held at the Glorietta, Edsa Mall and Ramp from Oct. 22 to 24. German companies and German Development Assistance organizations will showcase various products, services and events from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Organized by Fairs and More, in cooperation with the German Embassy, the trade fair forms part of the month-long celebration in October. For more information, visit www.germany-philippines.com or call Fairs and More at 845-1324.

Power Plant Mall scare fair

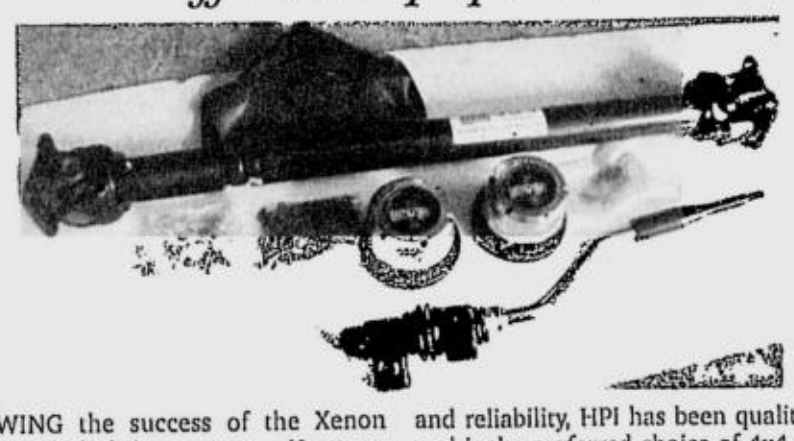
THIS Halloween, Rockwell's Power Plant Mall will be giving shoppers a whole lot of tricks and a truckload of treats. From Oct. 22 to 27, children 12 years old and below may pre-register for the Halloween Kids Parade. Just present a P500 single purchase receipt from any of the mall's outlets. The first 250 registrants qualify for the parade that will be held on Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. Judges will be on the lookout during the parade for the child with the most creative and original costume. The scare fair continues at the North Court at 2 p.m. on the same day with a show featuring a magician, yoyo master, acrobat, bubble show and jugglers. The South Court of the mall will also be transformed into a circus of activities on Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. onwards for children who were unable to register. This event is also made possible by Cadbury and Power Plant Mall shops.

Shell's biggest station in Asia

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp once again proves its leadership in the toll way service station business as it inaugurates the Shell Tollway Plaza site in Biñan, Laguna, today, Oct. 22. Shell Tollway Plaza Biñan is the biggest Shell service station in Asia with a total land area of 30,000 sqm and a spacious parking area that can accommodate 180 vehicles. Keeping motorists' primary needs in mind, it has a strategically laid out forecourt area that allows motorists to maneuver within the station with ease. In addition to a well-stocked and laid out Select store, the complex also houses 15 different food outlets, the most number of food outlets among Expressway Service Stations in the country today.

ProductFILES

Off-road equipment



FOLLOWING the success of the Xenon Bulbs (HiD) lighting system, Hummer Philippines Inc is introducing its newest product line to the local market, the HPI 4x4 Kits.

Imported from the United States, HPI 4x4 Kits provides easy conversion of your 2000 model Nissan Patrol, from a 4x2 to a 4x4 sports utility. Aside from its affordability and reliability, HPI has been quality tested and is the preferred choice of 4x4 enthusiasts in the States and Japan 4x4 markets.

Hummer Philippines offers bolt-on services and after-sales maintenance of the HPI 4x4 system. Hummer Philippines has an ongoing promo, which offers free installation of the 4x4 kits. For inquiries, call 713-1998 or 0917-8307832.

JCI

57th INDUCTION AND TURNOVER CEREMONIES

Philippine International Convention Center
October 22, 2004

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Department of Foreign Affairs
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ERIK ONG Director - Ways & Means
PING KAMANTIGUE Director - Special Projects
LARRY DE ASIS Director - Business & Govt.
CARLO LORENZANA Director - National Relations

MANILA Jaycees

Junior Chamber International Philippines - Manila
Worldwide Federation of Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs

The Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines - Manila is the first and premier leadership development organization in the Philippines and in Asia. Since its humble beginnings on December 20, 1947, it has remained committed to the pursuit of public good through pioneering community development programs, while at the same time, through the education of promising young upstarts for excellent leadership opportunities. Its successes inspired even more ambitious undertakings, generating more enthusiasm and drawing more members. JCI Manila was formed primarily to fill the need of properly channeling the energies and idealism of the Filipino youth into an organization that undertakes activities and projects, which would eventually rebound to the benefit of the community as a whole. Now on its 57th year, JCI Manila continues to demonstrate its brand of concerned leadership that the organization has always been known for. Under the direction of The 2004-2005 Board of Directors of "MAKING THE BEST EVEN BETTER", JCI Manila promises to become a shining testimony of its claim of being the best Jaycee organization, not only in the country, but also in the world, as it has gloriously proven in the past 56 years.

MAJOR PROJECTS OF JCI PHILS. - MLA

The Annual Search for AGILAS of PATROL 117 recognizes outstanding performances of police men, firemen, medical emergency responders & tel. operators involved in the Emergency 117 program.

The United Nations gave recognition to the Manila Jaycees' Php 8MM project addressing Iron Deficiency Anemia wherein the Jaycees educated & distributed iron supplements to 150,000 M. Mla. students.

Every Year the Manila Jaycees and the Yuchengco Foundation confers the Blessed Mother Theresa Award to the person who best exemplified the Life of Mother Theresa of Calcutta.

THE JCI PHILIPPINES - MANILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2004-2005
"MAKING THE BEST EVEN BETTER"

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hapee

YOUNG'S PAPER SALES, INC.

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Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Municipality of Dumalinao
Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

October 21, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil work component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The Municipal Bids and Awards Committee (MBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK	PCAB Category	Date of Opening of Bids
IFB ZDS-LGU 05-007-02-2004	Dumalinao Pilot School	Refer to Bidding Documents for Details	NC-2 Storey 6 CL School Building	Small "B" ARC	November 22, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

Note: NC – new construction: CL – Classroom: Bldg. – Building

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Office of the Municipal Engineer with Office address at PIU Building, Public Market, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur for a non-refundable fee of Php 3,000.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered of Municipal Bids and Awards Committee, Municipal Hall, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur on or before above stated time and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on November 8, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur.

(Sgd.) ANANIE C. RALUTO
Chairperson
Municipal Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 22, 2004)

PIRS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

11 – 12 November 2004, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City

QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS A DECENT WORKPLACE :

Blending Homegrown with Global Practices and Strategies

PROGRAMME

Day 1 – November 11, 2004 (Thursday)

8:00am Registration/Opening Ceremonies

9:45 Keynote Address:
Promoting Fair Globalization and Decent Work: The Score Card From the Viewpoint of the ILO

10:30 PLENARY SESSION 1:
Homegrown IR & HR Strategies and Practices: Sharing the Success of Employees Council

11:25 PANEL DISCUSSION:
Examining the State of Labor - Management Relations in the Philippines

1:25pm PLENARY SESSION 2:
Sharing the Success of a Filipino Enterprise: Balance between Contractual and Regular Decent Jobs

2:05 PLENARY SESSION 3:
Sharing the Success of a Filipino Enterprise: Homegrown IR/HR Best Practices & Strategies for Global Competitiveness

3:00 PLENARY SESSION 4:
Social Dialogue on Wage Fixing and Philippine Industrial Relations

3:50 PLENARY SESSION 5
Corporate Social Responsibility

Day 2 – November 12, 2004 (Friday)

8:00am Registration

8:15 PLENARY SESSION 6:
Blending Homegrown with Best Global IR/HR Practices and Strategies in the Philippines

9:45 PLENARY SESSION 7:
Strategic Role of IR/HR in Transforming Business Enterprises into Globally Competitive Workplaces

10:45 PLENARY SESSION 8:
Blending New Trends in IR & HR Through Alternative Dispute Settlement

1:00pm Keynote Address:
Philippine Labor Updates & Policy Directions
Sec. P. A. Sto. Tomas, DOLE

1:30 PLENARY SESSION 9:
Innovations in Collective Bargaining

2:30 PLENARY SESSION 10:
From Adversarial to Quality Partnerships at the Workplace: Blending with Best Practices in Labor Management Relations

3:00 PLENARY SESSION 11:
Learning from Global Best Practices on Quality Partnerships at the Workplace

3:50 PLENARY SESSION 12:
Learning from Best Practices on Productivity: Blending Homegrown with Global Patterns

4:40 Integration/ Closing Ceremonies/ Acknowledgments

PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY, INC.
in partnership with the
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION - MANILA

For registration/queries, please contact:

Tel. Nos. 890-4889 (Ria/Brigida); 944-0014 (irma); 948-3559 (Dick)
Fax Nos. 751-4604, 944-0031; E-mail address: pirs_natcon@yahoo.com

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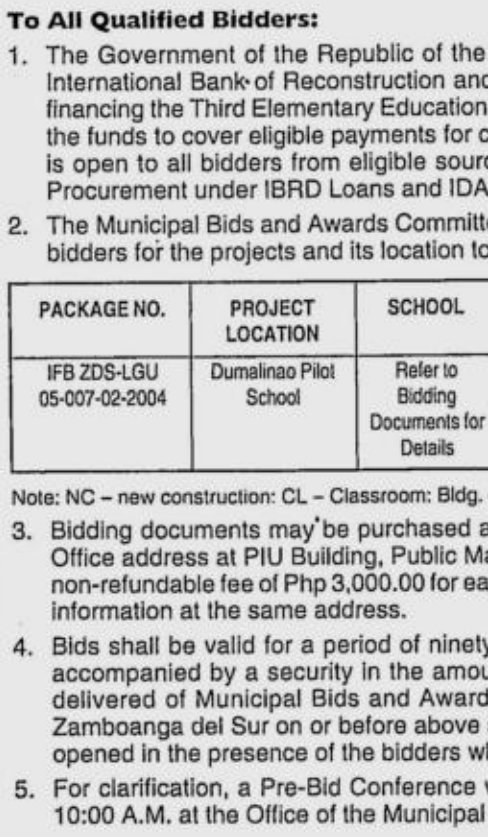

SKYDSL INVADES ATENEO

The Ateneo Management Information Systems Association (Misa), in partnership with BayanTel, recently held an event entitled, Misa Presents SkyDSL Goes Blue!, which was one of the key projects of the association for the current school year. During the event, BayanTel provided free SkyDSL service for four (4) days to give students of Ateneo an experience of broadband internet. Ten (10) computers were set up for browsing, surfing, Internet gaming, and downloading. And to generate more excitement, SkyDSL also held games and raffles where gift packs and prizes were given away to lucky users. Photo shows Cindy Nahil of BayanTel with the officers of Ateneo Management Information Society Association during the SkyDSL goes Blue event.

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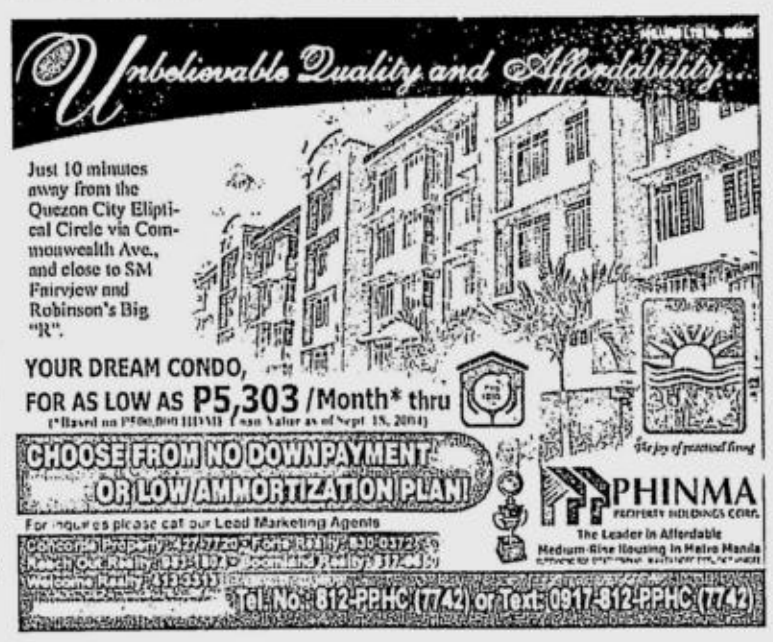

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(1) **Teacher I; SG-10; Item No. 54233**; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; No experience required. Eligibility: LET

(1) **Bookkeeper I–SG-8**; Completion of Two Years Studies in College; 1 year of relevant experience, 4 hrs of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service: (Sub-Prof.) First Level Eligibility.

NOTICE

Please be informed that Msgrs. **Ariel Paña** and **Alfredo L. Magdua** whose pictures appear below are no longer connected with Alpha Rigging and Moving Systems, Inc. effective 7 October 2004. Accordingly, any transaction entered by them in behalf of the company beginning on said date shall not be honored.

Ariel Paña

Alfredo L. Magdua

(PDI – Oct. 22, 2004)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Estate of the late MERCEDES S. OBEN was Extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #226 Page #46 Book #14 Series of 1995 by Notary Public Eduardo C. Tagle of San Juan Metro Manila (PDI-Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 2004 of Manila

Notice is given that the estate of the late MARCELINO ADARME was extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Atty. Daniel Rafael Penuela of Bacolod City, per Doc. No. 346, Page No. 70, Book VI, Series of 2004.
(PDI-Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 2004)

Notice is Given that the Estate of the Late Lucio Madlangbayan was Extrajudicially Settled by his heirs Per Doc.# 443, Page#90, Book# II Series of 2004. Before Notary Public Celso C. Miquibas, Jr. of Laguna (PDI-Oct.22-29 Nov. 5 ,2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TERESA ANDRADE has been extrajudicially settled between her heirs as per Doc. No. 165; Page 34; Book No. XX11; Series of 2004 before Atty. Esperanza C. Doroja, Notary Public of Manila

NOTICE OF LOSS

ELEANOR R. BELTRAN lost her passport w/no. GG501152 and return ticket via Saudia Airline last Sept. 3, 2004. If found, please contact the owner at 851-0633 / 0920-4287123
(PDI - October 22, 2004)

Please be informed that P/P No. GG548057 of ROLANDO L. NAVALTA, SR., got lost sometime in May 2004 in Naga, Cebu City.
(PDI-Oct. 22, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPURTUNITY
NO RISK. MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
TEL 5255795 / 5260741

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN P10T up/week HOW? share d bisnez 0921-5914739

EXTRA INCOME 7126374

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of Various Laboratory Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center as follows:

Equipment/Item	Quantity	Total Approved Budget
A. CHEMISTRY SECTION		
1. Electronic Dessicator w/ built-in Hygrometer	1	P 250,000
2. Top Loading balance w/ accessories	1	175,000
3. Water Bath	1	95,000
4. Dessicators	3	315,000
5. Test Weight Set	1	248,000
6. Air oven	1	270,000
B. MICROBIOLOGY SECTION		
1. Anaerobic Jars	10	250,000
C. MICROANALYTICAL SECTION		
1. Vacuum Pump	1	50,000
D. PACKAGE TESTING SECTION		
1. Glass Dessicator	3	180,000
2. Vacuum Pump with Vacuum Gauge	1	50,000
3. Dessicator Cabinet	1	65,000
E. TECHNOLOGY DEVT. DIVISION		
1. Top Loading Balance	1	100,000
2. Stirring Hot Plate	1	50,000
F. ENGINEERING DIVISION		
1. Ice Maker for Cube Ice	1	430,000
2. Ice Maker for Flake Ice	1	350,000
3. Automatic Hand Washer	2	581,000
		P 3,451,000.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

October 25-27, 2004	Submission of Letter of Intent, Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements including Issuance of bid documents
October 28, 2004 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Flr., NFA
November 11, 2004 (9:00 - 9:45 AM)	Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA Submission of eligibility requirements and bid proposals
(10:00 AM)	Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, 10th Floor Matimyas Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of Letter of Intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to prospective bidders upon payment of P5,000.00, non-refundable fee. Any eligible bidder can bid for one or all of the items. For further inquiries, you may call at Tel. No. 712-6815 (Flager) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8925.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 22, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DepED **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number : 2003-04-SEMP-DepED-SBP — October 12, 2004
Loan No. 7118 PH

Project Title : Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) Under the 10% Unallocated Portion

Contract Title : Construction of School Buildings for Public Elementary & High Schools in NCR, Region IV-A and Region VII.

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for School Building Program (SBP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepED).

2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepED ROVII and DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of schoolbuildings at Labangon Elementary School, Cebu City, M. Hizon Elementary School, Manila, Montalban Heights National High School, Montalban, Rizal.

	School	Scope of Works
Package A	Labangon Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building
Package B	M. Hizon Elementary School	Partial Construction of School Buildings with Pile Driving Works
	Montalban Heights National High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey, Six (6) Classroom School Building

3. For purposes of this bid, eligible bidders must have experience in works of a nature and complexity over the last five years.

4. Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting October 20, 2004 for Package A and October 25, 2004 for Package B upon submission of a letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepED Regional Office VII and DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Tel. No 636-6543 respectively. A complete set of bid documents will be available for a non-refundable fee of Php3,000.00.

5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents. Procurement of Works.

6. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee; cashier's/manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.

7. Pre Bid Conference and Bid Opening dates are as follow:

	Venue	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening
Package A	DepED Regional Office, VII	November 5, 2004 2:00 PM	November 25, 2004 2.00 PM
Package B	DepED Central Office	November 9, 2004 10:00 AM	November 29, 2004 10.00 AM

8. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, or to annul the bidding process or reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI-Oct. 15 & 22, 2004)

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OCTOBER 28, 2004 • THURSDAY • 2:00PM • Penthouse, Philippine AXA Tower, Ayala, Makati City

SOLD ON AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 273 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 11, Camarin Road, Brgy Camarin
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 259.7 sqm.
Floor Area: 124 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 19, #20 Ammas St., PHHC-Camarin Subd., Area D Camarin
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 371 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2, Everest St Mountain Hts Subd Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 335 sqm.
Floor Area: 331 sqm.
68 Nimmo Lydia St., BF Homes Ph 2
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 13, Sta Teresita St., Guadalupe Viejo Subd., Brgy. 193 Makatiches
Minimum Bid Price: 955,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 297 sqm.
Floor Area: 171.5 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 13, Sta Teresita St., Guadalupe Viejo Subd., Brgy. 183 Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 450 sqm.
Road Lot 4, Serenity Homes, Brgy Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price: 825,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 251 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 10, Madrid corner Paris Sts Vista Verde North Executive Village, Brgy. Llano
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 1, Diamond St., Vista Verde N. Sr. Phase 1 E, Brgy. Llano
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 122 sqm.
[illegible] Vaquilar St., Bankers Village II, Brgy. 34 Zone 16
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 400 sqm.
501 Bagong Rd. Bo Bagong [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price: 2,300,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 25 Gen Hermogenes V. Ocampo St., Bankers Village II
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Floor Area: 611 sqm.
174 Int. Cabatuhan Rd., Right of way, Brgy. Dagupa
Minimum Bid Price: 400,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 319 sqm.
Lot [illegible] Corpuz St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 216 sqm.
Floor Area: 101 sqm.
#34 Pearl St., Fairview Village, Brgy Dagupan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 468.28 sqm.
35 [illegible] St., Brgy. Talipapa
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 275 sqm.
Floor Area: 137 sqm.
Lot [illegible] Quezon City District, Idalia 500
St. [illegible], Brgy. Tatalon Dos
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot [illegible] Sampaguita Cor. Sto. Cristo-B
Brgy. [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 20 - [illegible]
Floor Area: 26.74 sqm.
Unit [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 21 - [illegible]
Floor Area: 28.48 sqm.
Unit [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 22 - [illegible]
Floor Area: 29.41 sqm.
Unit 2115, Cityland 10 Tower [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00

LOT 23 - CONDO
Floor Area: 65.56 sqm.
Unit [illegible] Cityland 10 Tower
HVE Condo
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 24 - CONDO
Floor Area: 42.99 sqm.
Unit 1412 Millenium Plaza, Makati Ave. cor Edsa
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

LOT 25 to 33 - CONDO
Upper Penthouse Cayland 10 Tower II
No 6817 Ayala Ave., Salcedo Village

LOT 25 - Unit 1611
Floor Area: 35.01 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 26 - Unit 1615
Floor Area: 20.94 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 550,000.00

LOT 27 - Unit 1616
Floor Area: 22.05 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

LOT 28 - Unit 1617
Floor Area: 19.00 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 29 - Unit 1618
Floor Area: 33.14 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 30 - Unit 1619
Floor Area: 23.61 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 620,000.00

LOT 31 - Unit 1620
Floor Area: 48.23 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 32 - Unit 2411
Floor Area: 20.94 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 550,000.00

LOT 33 - Unit 2414
Floor Area: 22.05 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

MALABON

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 285 sqm.
Floor Area: 156 sqm.
16 S. Del Rosario St., North Monvilla Park Subdivision, Phase 1, Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

MANDALUYONG

LOT 35 - CONDO
Floor Area: 40.17 sqm.
Unit 701 Landessence 1 Mansion Espiritu cor Don Pedro Sts Singalong
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 224 sqm.
2412 Andrade St., Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 42 sqm.
Floor Area: 118.5 sqm.
Unit C-6, 4/L Comm'l Cmpd., Angel Linao St., Pasig
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00

MANDALUYONG

LOT 38 - CONDO
Floor Area: 41.11 sqm.
807 B Wack Wack Twin Towers Condo (Tower B), Wack Wack Rd., Wack Wack Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 252 sqm.
78 P. Burgos St., Sto Niño
Minimum Bid Price: 1,900,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 15, Dasdasan Rd., Malanday Subd., San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 813 sqm.
Blk 1 Lot 1 Sampaguita St., Barangka Drive
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

WITHDRAWN

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
42 (49) Int. Lazaro Street, Brgy. Sto Niño
Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 242.25 sqm.
Villaraza Cmpd., No. 22 Bayabas St., Tumana River Subd. I, Bo. Nangka
Minimum Bid Price: 1,050,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Lot 63-E-1 Malaya St.
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

LOT 45 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 64 sqm.
Floor Area: 64 sqm.
Unit 14 Camantes Townhouse, Greenheights
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Floor Area: 76 sqm.
Unit 15 Mt. Everest Exec. Vil. Bo Sta Elena
Minimum Bid Price: 1,265,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Floor Area: 305 sqm.
No. 495 (545 new) J.P. Rizal St., Malanday
Minimum Bid Price: 1,800,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 126 sqm.
Floor Area: 96 sqm.
Lot 7 Emerald Hills Victoria Homes Subd., Tumana
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 500 sqm.
Floor Area: 200 sqm.
135 San Guillermo St., Fortune
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 216 sqm.
Road Lot 2 & Alley 1, Camilla Subd., Bo. Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

NAVOTAS

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 260 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 1, Sheryl Mira St., Multinational Village, La Huerta
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Floor Area: 119.12 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 1, Rd. Lot 2 Equity Homes IV San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 1,050,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Floor Area: 117 sqm.
Lot 1-C-3-A, Melton Espiritu St., Melton Subd., Brgy San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 303 sqm.
Floor Area: 283 sqm.
#54 Road 5-B, United ParaAque 5
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 157 sqm.
Floor Area: 161 sqm.
29 Road Lot 3, Doña Aurora Executive Village, Brgy. Santolan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,300,000.00

LOT 56 - CONDO
Floor Area: 61.4 sqm.
Unit 1107, 11/F One Magnificent Mile Citra Condominium, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 57 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 50 sqm.
Floor Area: 114 sqm.
Unit H, Casanova Townhouse Brgy. Culiat
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 464 sqm.
Lots 4 & 5 Sierra Madre St., Diamond Vill., Brgy. Kaligayahan, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 109 sqm.
Floor Area: 195 sqm.
#30 King Francis St. Kingspoint Baglong Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 850,000.00

LOT 60 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area: 137.84 sqm.
Unit 304, Woodland Townhomes, 5th Ave., Cubao
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 61 - CONDO
Floor Area: 35 sqm.
Unit 105 G/F, Xanadu Royale Condominium Bldg., Xanadu Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 62 - CONDO
Floor Area: 35 sqm.
Unit 104 G/F Xanadu Royale Condominium Bldg., Xanadu Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 329 sqm.
Lot 1081 Al, Camarin Road, Brgy Camarin, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 388 sqm.
Lots 12 & 14 Blk. 2, San Roque St., Jonaville Urdaneta Subd., Brgy Nagkaisang Nayon (San Agustin), Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000.00

LOT 65 - CONDO
Floor Area: 49 sqm.
Unit 501 5/F, The Heart of the City Condo #40 Sct. Esguerra (Bobol Ave) cor Sct. Alfonso
Minimum Bid Price: 1,650,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 460 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 5 Rd Lot 2 cor Rd Lot 3, Sunny-side Heights Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 355 sqm.
Floor Area: 161 sqm.
Lots 1 & 2, St. Jude St., San Pedro Subd. 7, Brgy. Sauyo (San Bartolome)
Minimum Bid Price: 1,450,000.00

LOT 68 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 47.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 87 sqm.
Unit 1, Persimmon Townhomes, Persimmon St., Isabela Hts., Brgy. Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price: 750,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 399 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk. 8, Camia St., Bonifacio Subd., Brgy. Paseong Tamo
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 177 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk. 1, Kent St., Fairwest Subd., Phase 2, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 71 - CONDO
Floor Area: 47.88 sqm.
Unit 7 3/F San Jose Condo #119 Scout Fernandez St., Bo. Sacred Heart
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 72 - CONDO
Floor Area: 41.48 sqm.
Unit 9 5/F San Jose Condo #119 Scout Fernandez St., Bo. Sacred Heart
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Road Lot 7, Capitol View Park Subd., Brgy Commonwealth
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 74 to 80 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Dionisio Royale Exec. Homes, #36
Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo

LOT 74 - Lot 3 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 53 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 75 - Lot 13 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 54 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 76 - Lot 14 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 54 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 77 - Lot 15 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 54 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 78 - Lot 16 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 54 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 79 - Lot 21 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 54 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 80 - Lot 24 Blk. 3
Lot Area: 54 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.60 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 81 - CONDO
Floor Area: 145 sqm.
Unit L Brotonne Boneville Condo, #28 N. Domingo St., Brgy. Valencia
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

VALENZUELA

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 305 sqm.
Floor Area: 540 sqm.
3rd St., Fredel Cmpd., Ph. 2 Bo. Gen T. De Leon
Minimum Bid Price: 1,850,000.00

PASAY

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 260 sqm.
Lot 45 Palermo St., Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: 775,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,213 sqm.
Floor Area: various
Purok 3, Bo. Bacao, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price: 1,900,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
Floor Area: 131.5 sqm.
Int. Private Rd., Brgy. Mambog, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 271 sqm.
Floor Area: 113 sqm.
No. 1026 Judge Sola cor. Rodriguez Sts., Bo. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 680 sqm.
Lot 55 Blk. 2, Terrello St. Statehand Hills Subd Brgy Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price: 850,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Floor Area: 84.5 sqm.
No. 317 (6092) D. Fabian St., New Nbg Village, Bo. Nbg II, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: 350,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,220 sqm.
Lot 691 A-5-A-1, Brgy. Medicion, Imus
Minimum Bid Price: 1,900,000.00

PASIG

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 252 sqm.
Floor Area: 84 sqm.
Lots 15 & 16 Blk. 1, Lanzones St., San Jose Vill., Ph. 4, Brgy. Binang Bisan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,800,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Floor Area: 92 sqm.
Lot 41 Blk. 62, Cypress St., Laguna Blvd., Ayala Phase III, Don Jose, Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 408 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5 Amethyst St. & Irenevile Ave., St. Frances IV Subd., Halang Bisan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 433 sqm.
Floor Area: various
E. Talleon St., Brgy. Santisima Cruz, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Lot 13 (Rd Lot 39) Dragat St., Southpoint Subd., Brgy. Nbgan, Cabuyao
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Lot 11 (Rd Lot 39) Dragat St., Southpoint Subd., Brgy. Nbgan, Cabuyao
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Floor Area: 162 sqm.
Lots 10,11 & 12 Blk. 8, Rd Lot 7, Nuestra de Gaia Subd., Bo. Mamplasan (Poblacion 2), Biñan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Interior Apacible Blvd., Brgy. Remparts, Batangas
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 460 sqm.
Road Lot 1, Villa Nieve Subd., Bo. Sambal Ibaba & Calamba
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
Floor Area: 64 sqm.
Km 41, Pravi Road, Brgy. Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
Minimum Bid Price: 1,225,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 312 sqm.
Floor Area: 76 sqm.
Lot 4511-E-1-B-2, Better Living St., Bo. Banducan, Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 378 sqm.
Floor Area: various
Lot 1 Blk 18, Malatag, St., Sapang Palay, SJDM Bulacan
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 201 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk. 1, Pineapple cor. Lemon Sts., Constantino Park Subd. Ph 3, Brgy. Poblacion, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 813 sqm.
Floor Area: various
Lot 2844-B, Sta. Maria de Parili Ext., Bo. Bagbaguin, Pandi
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 171 sqm.
Floor Area: 148 sqm.
Lot 11-B-1, Jose Benedicto St., Binog 2nd., Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price: 750,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 238 sqm.
#6 Creole St., cor. Alley St., Francis Subd., Bo. Pandayan, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 917 sqm.
Lot 2-F, Along Right of Way Brgy. Poblacion, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 10,026 sqm.
Lot 2095 Tilapalo San Ildefonso
Minimum Bid Price: 1,550,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 13,600 sqm.
Lot 2076 Tilapalo San Ildefonso
Minimum Bid Price: 1,750,000.00

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 400 sqm.
Lot 3074-C-1 Bo Camalig Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,764 sqm.
Lot 2343-D-2 & 2343-D-3-A, Bo Lambakin San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Floor Area: 242 sqm.
(Lot 6726-B), No. 54 Legazpi St., Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Floor Area: 185 sqm.
Lot 6726-A, M.H. Del Pilar St., cor. Legazpi St., Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 500 sqm.
Floor Area: 230 sqm.
Along Brgy Rd. Brgy Dalahican, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 684 sqm.
Lots 2 & 5, Opal & Sapphire Sts. & Lot 11, Jade St., United Lucena Executive Vill., Bo Kanlurang Mayao, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 24, Road Lot 10, Peninsula Subd., Brgy Bebito, Lopez
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

MANDALUYONG

LOT 116 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 4, Michigan Bend, Palos Verdes Garden Heights, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 422 sqm.
Lot 29 Blk. 7, Bonaflow cor. Apo Sts., Town & Country Hts., Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,350,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379 sqm.
No. 6 Road 23, Cogeo Village, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 273 sqm.
Lot 21 Blk. 24, Corona St. Vill. East Ph. I, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 750,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,375 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 4 Rd Lot 1 Assumption Subd., Bo San Isidro, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 120 sqm.
No. 1513, Clover St., Cainta Greenland Subd., Ph. 5, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 830,000.00

LOT 122 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Gabriel St., Village East Exec. Homes Phase II, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price: 580,000.00

LOT 123 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 174 sqm.
Manta St., Vill. East Exec. Homes, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price: 490,000.00

LOT 124 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: various
Lot 7 & 8 Milagros Ave., Milagros Subd., Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,050,000.00

LOT 125 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 297 sqm.
Lot 19, Blk. 5, Dakota St., Brookside Hills Subd., Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 126 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 954 sqm.
Anacona St. Beverly Hills Subd. Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: 1,550,000.00

LOT 127 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 3, Taklak Road, Brgy. Sta Cruz, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 128 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 216 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 15, Mercury St., Constellation Homes, Bo. San Isidro, Angono
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 129 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 172 sqm.
Lot 30 Blk. 5, Zamia Drive cor. Johnson Bend, Greenland Subd., Ph 7 Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 550,000.00

LOT 130 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Floor Area: 99.80 sqm.
#11-A Lauan St., Palmera Hts., Bo. San Isidro, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 131 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 231 sqm.
Floor Area: 185 sqm.
#58 Northcrest St. Vista Verde Country Homes, Ph. 1, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 132 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 312 sqm.
4th St. Corebi Subd., Pob. Angono
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000.00

LOT 133 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Lot 21 Blk. 4, Dama De Noche St., Dona Pepeng Subd., Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 134 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 274 sqm.
Lot 22 Blk. 4, Sampaguita cor. Dama De Noche Sts., Dona Pepeng Subd., Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo
Minimum Bid Price: 660,000.00

LOT 135 to 148 - LOT ONLY
Villa Cassian Townhouse, Sampaloc
Hi-way, Mayamot, Antipolo City

LOT 135 - Lot 23 Blk. 1
Lot Area: 81.5 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

LOT 136 - Lot 24 Blk. 2
Lot Area: 81.5 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

LOT 137 - Lot 25 Blk. 2
Lot Area: 81 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

LOT 138 - Lot 26 Blk. 2
Lot Area: 77 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00

LOT 139 - Lot 2
Lot Area: 94 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00

LOT 140 - Lot 3
Lot Area: 76.5 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00

LOT 141 - Lot 4
Lot Area: 75.5 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00

LOT 142 - Lot 1
Lot Area: 75 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 143 - Lot 2
Lot Area: 75 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 144 - Lot 3
Lot Area: 75 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 145 - Lot 4
Lot Area: 75 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 146 - Lot 5
Lot Area: 75 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 147 - Lot 6
Lot Area: 75 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 230,000.00

LOT 148 - Lot 7
Lot Area: 97 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00

LOT 149 to 154 - LOT & IMPRVMNT

LOT 149 - Lot 9-B
Lot Area: 79 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 150 - Lot 9-C
Lot Area: 79 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 151 - Lot 9-D
Lot Area: 78 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 152 - Lot 9-E
Lot Area: 78 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 153 - Lot 9-F
Lot Area: 77 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 154 - Lot 9-G
Lot Area: 95 sqm.
Floor Area: 127 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price: 680,000.00

CBRE PHILIPPINES | AUCTION MANAGER

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Or TEXT US AND WE WILL CALL YOU
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EARLY: 0917-856-6885 MIKE: 0917-526-0614 DENNIS: 0921-713-8545

PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS.

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES, RATES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT P

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zamboanga Sibugay
Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Alicia

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

ZSNCB-2004-0002

October 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *International Bank for Reconstruction Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

   Construction of 1unit-6CL (Two Storey) School Building in Alicia Central Elementary School, Brgy. Poblacion, Alicia, ZS

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Municipal Engineers Office with address at Brgy. Poblacion, Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay for a non-refundable fee of Php2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Alicia on or before **10:00 AM, November 23, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on **10:00 AM, November 9, 2004** at the Municipal Hall Building, Alicia, Zamboanga, Sibugay.

(Sgd.) **DOLRECH M. ALBANO**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 22, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zamboanga Sibugay
Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Ipil

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

ZSNCB-2004-005-018

October 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *International Bank for Reconstruction Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

   Construction of 1unit-6CL (Two Storey) School Building in Ipil Central Elementary School, Brgy. Poblacion, Ipil, ZS

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Municipal Engineers Office with address at Brgy. Poblacion, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay for a non-refundable fee of Php2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Ipil on or before **10:00 AM, November 23, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on **10:00 AM, November 11, 2004** at the Municipal Hall Building, Ipil, Zamboanga, Sibugay.

(Sgd.) **LOLITA J. INOFERIO**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 22, 2004)

Two events for OFW, SME families set at SM Megatrade

TWO big and must-see events for the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) as well as their families are slated on Nov. 12 to 14 at the Megatrade Hall 1, SM Megatrade, Mandaluyong City. The events are the Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004 (the 2nd Philippine Exhibition and Conference on Job, Livelihood, Investment and Business Opportunities for the Seafarers and their Families) and the Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 (the 1st Philippine Exhibition on Real Estate Projects and Home Necessities for the OFW and SME Families). Organized by the POFW-SMENFI, the twin events' main objective is to make the country's more than 8 million OFWs and 475,000 plus SME families aware of the various opportunities being offered by the government, private and non-government organization sectors. The twin events are in support of the Month of the Overseas Filipino Workers this December. For more details, interested sponsors, exhibitors and visitors may contact the POFW-SMENFI Secretariat at tel. Nos. 912-58-03 and 437-16-60, the 24-hour mobile hotline no. 0916-7421768 or e-mail at gearcom@tri-isys.com. You may also visit the foundation's website – www.pamilyangofw-sme.com.

PSALM Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTERS OF INTENT

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), a Government Corporation (GOCC) intends to engage the services of a qualified Consultant (Third Party Financial Valuator) to undertake an impartial and independent financial valuation employing discounted cash flow (DCF) method and/or other appropriate revaluation methodologies of about seventeen (17) large power generation assets (generating capacity of 100 MW or higher) of the National Power Corporation (NPC) and the transmission business of the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) that will be privatized. In this connection, PSALM is inviting all interested parties qualified to undertake the services to submit a Letter Of Intent (LOI) indicating interest to participate in the eligibility screening and selection of consultants for the subject services.

Interested parties shall submit their expressions of interest to participate in the eligibility screening and selection process in the form of a Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) to be delivered personally by hand no later than 27 October 2004 at the following address:

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
2/F SGV Building
6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Telephone Nos.: 893-82-02 (Trunk Line)
E-Mail Address: rsreinoso@psalm.gov.ph

The general scope of the services/works required of the Third Party Financial Valuator and other details related to the provision of the services shall be provided to/discussed with the consultants which submitted LOI in a pre-selection conference to be held on 03 November 2004 at a place to be announced to the consultants.

PSALM shall not assume any responsibility for any expenses, losses or damages that a consultant may incur in connection with or as a consequence of this Invitation. All costs attendant to the submission of the Letter of Intent shall be borne by the concerned consultant.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. REINOSO, JR.**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation

(PDI–Oct. 15 & 22, 2004)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2004-269	1 lot Supply of labor, materials, tools and equipment for the complete upgrading (from mono to mono stereo) of sound and lighting system at Diosdado Macapagal Hall, 10th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila	P 2,122,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirement is scheduled on November 10, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on October 29, 2004, 10:00 am, at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI – October 15 & 22, 2004)

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
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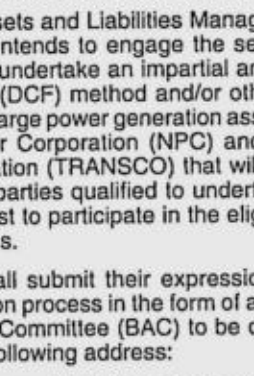
OBITUARIES



FELIPA TRINIDAD CRISOSTOMO

October 22, 2001

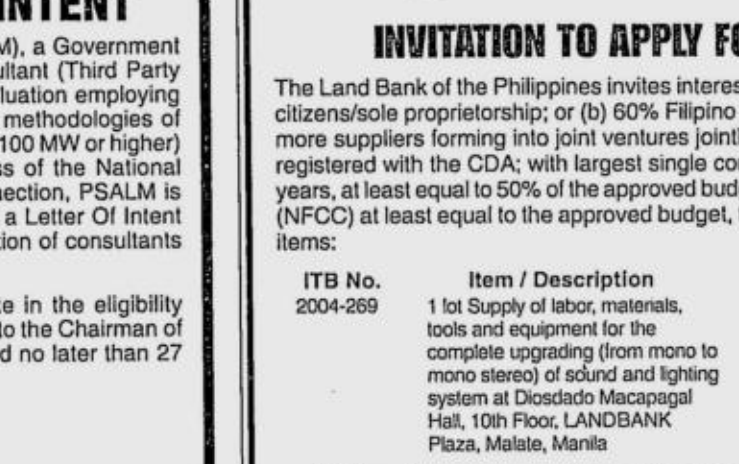
So Lovingly Remembered
on her 3rd Death Anniversary
of her rebirth to eternal life

Her husband Santiago; her children and grandchildren:
(†)Rolly & Susan – Marco, Joseph & Patrick
Chris & Millet – Paula, Carlo, Karen & Matthew
Tessie
Fina & Obeth – Aika, Gio, Raprap & Venie
Arnold & Grace – Ge-Ann & Gino

request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches on October 22, 2004:

Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows ..... 6:00 AM
National Shrine of St. Anne, Hagonoy ..... 6:00 AM
Sto. Rosario Parish Church, Hagonoy ..... 6:00 AM

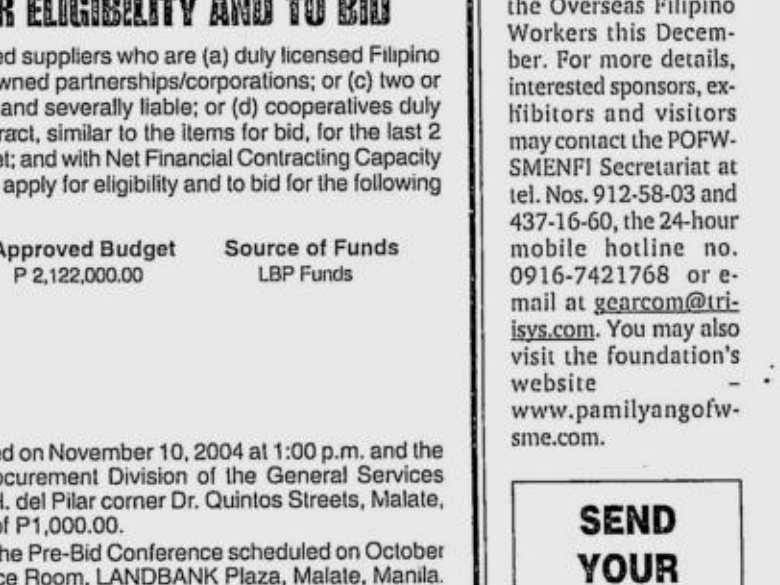


Quezon City's First Fully Functional Columbary

The Columbary is now 75 percent completed. Targeted to be completed by end-2005. It will become Quezon City's first fully-functional columbary and chapel development.

Owned and maintained by the Augustinian fathers, The Columbary is a modern-day depository for the cremated remains of the departed. It is located inside the San Agustin Seminary Compound along Visayas Avenue.

Above is one of its memorial wall vaults. Visit us on our Open House on October 22, 2004 and avail of big discount. For inquiries, call 425.1508 to 09 or 426.6965 or email rdc@thecolumbary.com.ph



CHINESE PAVILION TO BE BUILT AT THE HERITAGE PARK

The Heritage Park, the country's premier memorial service provider leads the way in the industry, following groundbreaking ceremonies held recently of its much-awaited Pavilion project. The multi-million peso Pavilion incorporates many features of classical Buddhist building design and when completed in six months, shall be the focal point for serving the memorialization needs of the Park's Filipino-Chinese clientele Present during the ceremony were (from left): Rosehills Memorial Management (Phils.) Inc chair and president Jack Kidwiler, outgoing BCDA chair Florencio Padernal, First Lady of Taguig Kaye Tinga, incoming BCDA chair Filadelfo Roxas, Jr. and HPMC president Anthony Woo.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Interment of the late
Dr. Felino G. Castro MD, FPCP, FPAFP
will be on October 23, 2004 at the Baliuag Catholic Cemetery, Baliuag, Bulacan after the 2:00 p.m. mass at St. Augustine Church, Baliuag, Bulacan

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be."
John 12:16

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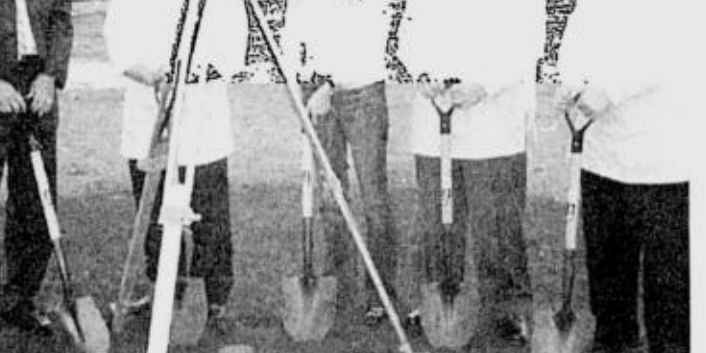

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
"The newly declared Mortuary & Crematory at the Heritage Park"
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

OBITUARIES

" He who hears my word, and believes him who sent me, has life everlasting, and does not come to judgement, but has passed from death to life."
- St. John 5: 24

In Loving Memory
On the
First Death Anniversary
Of

Hon. Aguedo Ferrer Agbayani

December 16, 1919 - October 23, 2003
Much Beloved Former Governor of Pangasinan

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory on October 23, 2004 at the following churches

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE PARISH, New Manila, Quezon City (6:00 PM)
NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY (STO. DOMINGO PARISH), Quezon Ave., Q.C. (6 PM)
STA.MARIA DELLA STRADA PARISH, Katipunan Ave., Quezon City (6 PM)
CHRIST THE KING PARISH, Greenmeadows, Quezon City (6 PM)

Pangasinan

ST.CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA PARISH, Agno, (6:30 AM)
ST.JOSEPH CATHEDRAL PARISH, Alaminos City, (6:30 AM)
ST.NICHOLAS DE TOLENTINO PARISH, Anda, (6 AM)
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH,Bani,(6:15 AM)
ST.JAMES THE GREAT PARISH,Bolinao, (6 am)
ST.ISIDORE THE FARMER PARISH, Burgos, (7 PM)
ST.VINCENT FERRER PARISH, Dasol *(7:30 PM, Oct. 22 and 7.30 AM, Oct. 24)*
ST.JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, Infanta, (6:30 AM)
STO NINO PARISH, Mabini, (5:30 PM)
ST.PETER THE MARTYR PARISH, Sual, (6 AM)
OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPCION PARISH, Urdaneta City, (5 PM)
ST.JOSEPH THE PATRIARCH PARISH, Aguilar, (6 AM)
ST.ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH, Bugallon, (6 AM)
ST.ISIDORE THE FARMER PARISH, Labrador, (6 AM)
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD PARISH, Lingayen, (6 AM)
ST ILDEFONSE PARISH,Malasiqui *(6:30 AM, October 22)*
ST.DOMINIC PARISH, San Carlos City *(8 AM, October 22)*
OUR LADY OF MANAOAG PARISH, Manoag *(7 AM, October 22)*
ST.THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH, Mangaldan, (5 PM)
ST.JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, Dagupan City, (5:30 PM)
ST ANTHONY ABBOT PARISH, Villasis, (6:30 PM)
ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH, Bayambang, (6:30 PM)

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

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"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live, even when he dies; and no one who lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Teresita G. Nasser

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 20, 2004 at the age of 75.

Her bereaved husband **Rufino Nasser**; children & in-laws **Tessie** & **Robert Kua**, **Claire** & **Tom Tangsoc, Jr.**; grandchildren **Carol**, **Karen** & **Ramon**, **Toby**, **Ritchie**, **Gene**, **Sean**, **Julian**, **Greg**; great grandchild **Joaquin**, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 23, 2004 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Crypt after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Dr. Jesus C. Prospero

(Chuching)

of Sta. Cruz, Manila and Biñan, Laguna

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 13, 2004 in Sydney, Australia at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Zenaida**,
His children **Carmencita & Eduardo (†), Alicia & Kenneth, Ramon, Angelica, Arturo** and **Catherine**
Grandchildren **Grace & Noel, Gemma, Ginna, Reggie & Janina, Glady, Victoria, Charles, Paolo, Arianne** and **Audrey**
His sisters **Natividad (†), Pilar, Purificacion (†), Dolores, Rosario, Amparo, Teresita & Crispin**
and brother **Antonio**
Request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sto. Domingo Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Sunday, October 24, 2004 at La Loma Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Espiritu Santo Church, Tayuman, Manila.

PAZ ALVAREZ vda. de SANCHEZ

*Has joined her husband **Benigno Sr.**, and peacefully rest in peace with our Lord on October 17, 2004, at the age of 84.*

Her loving children: **Jaime** and **Beverly**; **Gregorio** and **Ninfa**; **Antonio** and **Priscilla**; **Teresita** and **Benjamin Alarcon**; **Lourdes**; **Violeta** and **Criste Villanueva**; **Maria Elena**; **Ramon**; **Benigno Jr.** and **Eleanor**; grandchildren: **Anthony, Jaime Jr.** and **Genevieve**; **Michelle, Hazel** and **Tessa**; **Francis** and **Antonio**; **Benjamin Jr.** and **Catherine Alarcon**; **Christina Villanueva** and **Sofia**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 24, 2004 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, after the 8 a.m. Mass.

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John 3:16

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
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2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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Our Dearly Beloved

Evangelista A. Garcia

of Tanauan, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord on 20 October 2004 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Ofie**; children **Veegee** and **Maia**, **Maria** and **Jim**, **Jed** and **Karen**; grandchildren **Jake**, **Gino** and **Enzo** and other relatives request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 24 October 2004 at the Manila South Cemetery, Makati City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life".
John 3:16

DR. BENJAMIN S. CATUBAY

of Paoay, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 16, 2004 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Manuela**; children **Cielita, Arthur** and **Dennis**; daughter-in-law **Rizaline**; grandchildren **Marc Benjamin** and **Kevin Carlo**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be at the Paoay Municipal Cemetery on Monday, October 25, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL REVENUE DOWN TO P6B FROM P9B

Gov't gives in to tobacco lobby, lowers sin taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

BECAUSE of the economic team's decision to lower the proposed additional tax rate on cigarettes and alcohol from 30.1 percent to 20 percent, the government will give up over P3 billion in additional revenue a year.

Estimates from the Department of Finance showed that instead of annually collecting P9.6 billion in additional revenue, the government will only stand to collect a little over P6 billion, with the 20-percent increase in the excise tax rates on the so-called sin products.

The economic team—which includes the Department of Finance, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas—originally pushed for a 30.1 percent increase in the taxes on cigarettes and alcohol. The 30.1 percent reflects the amount of inflation from 1997 to 2003, considering that the taxes currently imposed on sin products are still based on 1997 prices.

But pressure from the cigarette makers had forced Congress to ask the economic team to reduce the proposed 30.1-percent tax increase.

"What we propose, Congress disposes," said Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong in a press briefing. "There was a consensus among legislators to lower the additional tax rate to only 20 percent. Most of them feel that 30.1 percent was too high."

DOF sources said President Macapagal-Arroyo suggested to the members of her economic team to heed the legislators' request to prevent delays in the passage of the administration's proposed revenue-enhancement measures.

The Arroyo administration has been warned that the country is facing a credit-rating downgrade if it fails to implement some of its fiscal reform measures before the end of the year.

"Leave it to the wisdom of Congress," said a finance official quoting President Arroyo as saying during a meeting with economic managers.

At present, tobacco firms pay P1.12 for each pack of low-priced cigarettes, P5.60 for each pack of cigarettes under the medium category, P8.96 for each pack of high priced cigarettes, and P13.44 for each pack of premium cigarettes.

Under the economic team's proposal, the tax rates will also be indexed to inflation every two years.

The proposal to adjust the tax on sin products is included in the Arroyo administration's revenue-enhancement measures intended to help achieve the government's medium-term goal of wiping out the gaping budget deficit, which is expected to reach P197.8 billion by year's end.

BSP: No changes in key rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board yesterday voted to keep key policy rates at the present levels as threats to inflation and foreign exchange rate were seen to be manageable.

But Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, in a press briefing after the MB's monthly interest rate meeting, said monetary authorities would not hesitate to tighten the rates to counter inflationary pressures in the future.

As of yesterday, the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate was kept at 6.75 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9 percent.

"In its assessment of the monetary stance, the MB noted that conditions for output and inflation over the policy horizon continue to support the case for maintaining the BSP's policy rates at their current levels," Buenaventura said.

He explained that indications of price pressures across various commodity groups were outweighed by the presence of relatively high unemployment and moderate credit activity in the economy. This means that because there are more people who are not earning wages, there is less consumer demand.

"Such conditions imply that the current inflation uptrend is originating mainly from the supply side rather than the demand side," he said.

In the absence of clear evidence of demand-side effects of supply shocks or mounting demand-side inflationary pressures, Buenaventura said monetary authorities thus opted to maintain the present settings for monetary policy.

The current rates were pegged in July 2003.

"Given the dominant role of supply side developments in the inflation outlook, inflation can be best mitigated in the near term by appropriate supply-side or non-monetary policy measures that would facilitate production, timely importation, distribution and delivery of key commodities," Buenaventura said.

He also noted that the prevailing interest rate differentials between Philippine 91-day Treasury bill rate and the comparative US T-bill rate as well as the 90-day London Interbank Offered Rate was still "sizeable" at more than 400 basis points.

TREATS of THREE

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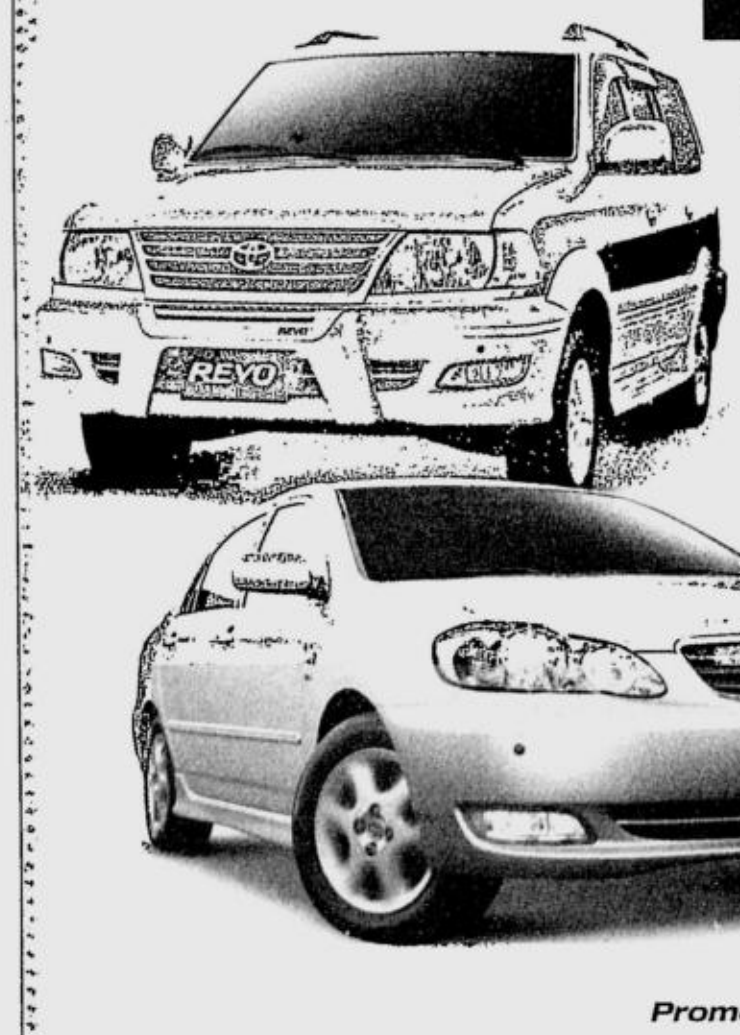

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. Qualified to join are all those who will purchase any of the participating products listed below:

Model	Variant
ALTIS	1.8G A/T, 1.8E A/T, 1.6E A/T, 1.6E M/T, 1.6J M/T
REVO	VX200 Leather, VX200 A/T Reg., VX240 DSL, VX200 M/T, SR A/T 1.8, SR M/T 1.8, SR DSL 2.4, GSX A/T, GSX M/T, GLX DSL, GLX A/T, GLX M/T, GL DSL, GL GAS, DLX DSL, DLX GAS

2. Participants should purchase their vehicles either through cash or financing basis.
3. Consumers who purchase any of the participating models are entitled to choose from three packages:

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- Free comprehensive insurance coverage for two years from date of purchase of vehicle.
- Free LTO Registration for two years from date of purchase of vehicle.
- Corresponding cash discount depending on the unit bought.
- Corresponding amount of gift certificate for use on service and parts only. The gift certificate will include the following:
  - for P2,500 and P5,000 gift certificates: corresponding amount, name and signature of customer, signature of authorized TAI representative, date issued and expiry date.

PACKAGE 2
- Free comprehensive insurance coverage for one year from date of purchase of vehicle.
- Free LTO Registration for one year from date of purchase of vehicle.
- Corresponding cash discount depending on the unit bought.
- Corresponding amount of gift certificate for use on service and parts only. The gift certificate will include the following:
  - for P2,500 and P5,000 gift certificates: corresponding amount, name and signature of customer, signature of authorized TAI representative, date issued and expiry date.

PACKAGE 3
- Low down payment on ALL REVO and Altis models.
- Corresponding amount of gift certificate for use on service and parts only. The gift certificate will include the following:
  - for P2,500 and P5,000 gift certificates: corresponding amount, name and signature of customer, signature of authorized TAI representative, date issued and expiry date.

4. Upon issuance of the receipt of payment to the consumer by the salesperson, the consumer can already avail of the chosen package for the unit bought.
5. Consumers are entitled to an outright cash discount on purchases either through cash or financing, depending on which unit the consumer wishes to purchase.
6. If a consumer has purchased two or more cars within the promo period, he/she can avail of the premiums and discounts that correspond to each participating vehicle purchased.
7. Consumers will be given their freebies and discounts upon purchase of any of the participating Toyota vehicle.
8. Gift Certificates can be used for service and parts only. P5,000 gift certificates are valid for 18 months from date issued, while P2,500 gift certificates are valid for 8 months only from date issued.
9. P2,500 gift certificates are valid only for vehicle specified on the gift certificate, while P5,000 certificates are fully transferable.
10. Gift certificates are honored at face value in Toyota Alabang, Inc.
11. Gift certificates are not convertible to cash and not replaceable when lost.
12. For fleet/company accounts, it will be the company name registered who will be entitled to the premiums and discounts, signed/authorized by the company's purchasing department.
13. Deadline of payment is on November 15, 2004, for one to be able to participate in the REVO and Altis promo. Purchases made beyond this date are no longer eligible to join the promo.
14. Promotion duration is from October 15 to November 15, 2004.

CONTROL MEASURES
1 Gift Certificates will have a control number to easily track the availing of the premiums.
2 For the Gift Certificates, a TAI Service and Parts Representative will be responsible in filling-up the back portion per transaction (date, reference number, amount, balance, signature of cashier).

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Wrapping Danes, Swedes in banana fiber

CARNIVAL fashion show opener at the Gold Silver Watch and Jewelry Fair at Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

THE ETERNITY wrap

DITA Sandico-Ong's signature colorful wraps made of natural banana fiber have attracted people in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Stockholm, Sweden.

The wrap artist did the opening number at the start of the fashion show of the recent .Gold Silver Watch and Jewelry Fair at the Bella Center in Copenhagen. Her booth, which showcased the versatility of Filipino natural products, was one of the most popular and was constantly filled with people.

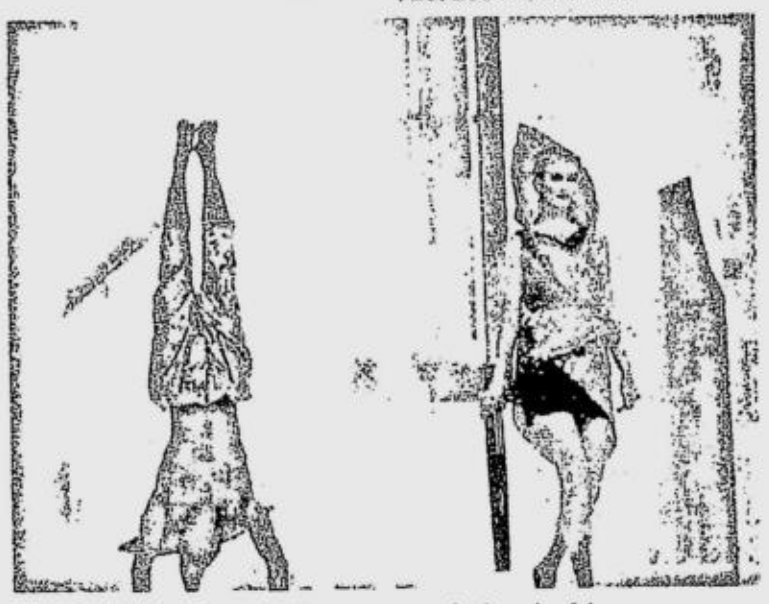
After the Copenhagen show, Sandico-Ong went to the three-day Stockholm Asian Festival at the Raoul Wallenbergs Torg, where she joined other Filipinos in presenting the very best in the country's music, home décor and fashion accessories in the Philippine pavilion.

The Philippine delegation organized a lively *ati-atihan* parade and a Filipiniana fashion show. Sandico-Ong draped the models in her banana-fiber wraps.

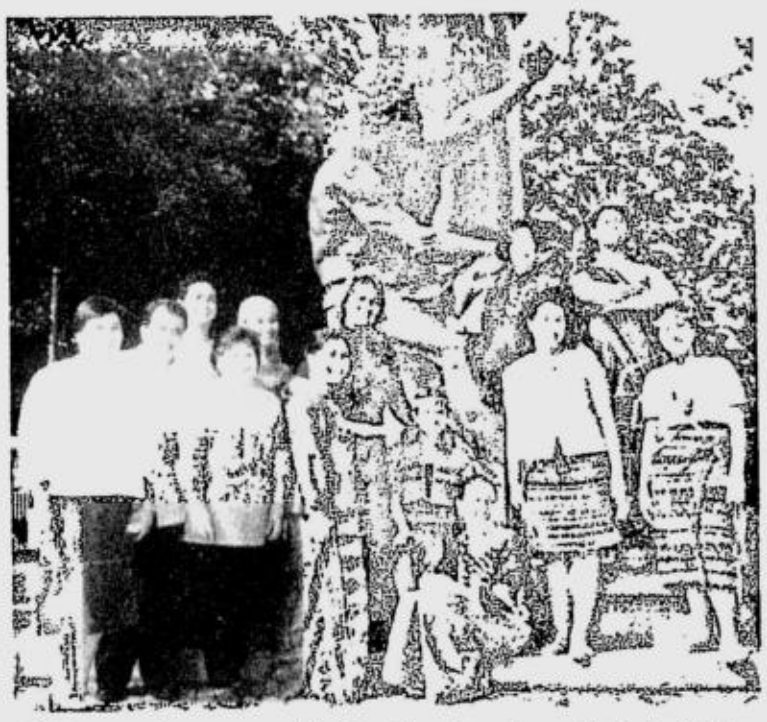
During the festival, the Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Troupe and the De la Salle University Chorale were among the featured performers during the main events.

Ambassador Bataclan said if the festival was a sporting event, the Philippines would have swept the gold medals on all fronts.

Sandico-Ong's *paru-paro* wraps are available at 35 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan. Call 7267260 or 7265102.



THE MARIPOSA Wrap makes waves at the jewelry fair.



OUR country's treasures. Dita Sandico-Ong along with the La Salle Chorale during the Asian Festival at Stockholm, Sweden

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MEL Vergel de Dios

The Young Designers Guild pushes the envelope by presenting clothes inspired by cutting-edge European videos

DENNIS Lustico

Filmy fashion

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE LINE between fashion and video was again blurred as 12 members of the Young Designers Guild recently presented clothes inspired by sounds and images culled from cutting-edge videos made by some of Europe's leading avant-garde fashion designers and filmmakers.

Presented by Alliance Française de Manille and directed by Robby Carmona, "Fashion Moments... Fashion Videos" redefined the usual catwalk, as people behind the show converted the Greenbelt Expo Exchange into the fashion equivalent of a boxing ring.

In lieu of ropes, however, the show featured a revolving platform, where models converged after emerging either from the aisles or from both sides of the stage. Guests were thus able to get a better view of the clothes—front, back and center—as models ended each segment by standing on the movable ramp.

A series of video presentations produced by designers Martin Margiela, Gilles Rosier, Bernhard Willhelm and Anke Loh, filmmakers Stefan Nikolaeve and Marcus Tomlinson, and photographer Ellen Nolan were shown on the giant theater screen before each collection.

IVARLUSKI Aseron

Rather than assign them a particular name, organizers gave the Filipino designers a chance to view all the videos and choose a particular clip which they felt featured images and music that best reflected their style or would inspire them the most.

Fresh and clubby feel

Except for host Angel Jacob's horrendously fake French accent (French phrases now and then would have given her spiels enough French flavor), almost everything about the presentation was fresh and had a clubby feel to it. Despite all the gimmicks, however, many designers were able to hold their own by coming up with interesting yet wearable pieces.

Not a few, notably James Reyes, Joey Samson, Yvonne Quisumbing and Ivarluski Aseron, favored the young, unfinished look. Mel Vergel de Dios drew inspiration from the 1980s, while Avel Bacudio tried to redefine club wear by venturing into the glamorous world of rock stars.

"The look has gotten richer," says Bacudio, who used tweeds and Thai silk and accented them with tulle and chiffon, "but traces of club wear are still there."

Reyes' clothes seemed deceptively simple, as they were composed of black shift dresses made of stretch cotton twill. But he had to think of ways to differentiate one from the other and give them shape. He did this by sewing various patches of beige cotton pique on the dresses.

"Like Martin Margiela," he says, "I paid homage to the seamstress. The beige fabric is supposed to be brown paper on a black table cloth."

Reyes then stitched each pattern in place with orange thread, which, he says, stands for the ubiquitous orange-colored tailor's chalk. Even the styling was loaded with visual humor, as tape measures and tomato-shaped pincushions doubled as necklaces.

JOEY Samson

Samson redefined his penchant for structure and mannish dressing by incorporating sleepwear into his oatmeal-colored dresses and suits made of silk and linen. He deconstructed a number of jackets and vests, and embellished corsets and halter dresses with pin tucks and pleats.

"Everything was inspired by the video," he says, referring to the clip produced by Gilles Rosier featuring designs by Chair Amie. "This is the first time, though, that I've infused a little femininity into my collection. Some of my models were wearing chemises, long johns and tank tops underneath."

Aseron, who produced a series of bronze, origami-like pieces made of stretch satin, also drew inspiration from Margiela. The designer, who seemed to have appropriated deconstruction as his middle name, came up with a wonderful collection for the brave and daring.

Aseron's loose dresses featured the designer's trademark geometric tiers and exaggerated pleating. This time, though, he opened the pleats a bit and did several versions in various directions.

One of the collection's featured pieces, a high-strapped number, was achieved through the painstaking process of hand stitching and boning. Aseron's ability to use both sides of the fabric imbues his clothes with varying tones and textures.

"It seems as if I used several fabrics," he says, "but in truth, I only used one."

Over the top

Vergel de Dios went over the top by combining structure and draping. His visually arresting collection of tops and skirts made of Thai silk and accented with black tulle harked back to the 1980s, when power dressing was marked by broad shoulders and bold color combinations.

Apart from softening the clothes, the swirls of ruffles and harlequin collars added a sense of whimsy to the collection. Rugby player-like shoulder pads gave way to a slimmer version to add an illusion of shape to the clothes.

"The extended shoulders," he says, "are actually part of the sleeves. I draped the fabric and made it part of the sleeve to achieve softness."

Quisumbing describes her collection as tropical Gothic, and rightly so since she used strips of edged *piña* and combined them with such grungy staples as voile, Ly-

FILMY/ C5

JOJIE Lloren

Free clinic consultations

MEGA Products Phil. Inc. Ltd., manufacturer of Ginsomin ginseng, and Mercury Drugstores are conducting free clinic consultations at Liana's Supermarket, Alabang, today and in Novaliches, Fairview, Oct. 29. If you want a free clinic consultation to be conducted in your barangay/drug store, write to Mega Products Ltd. Phil. at 4th floor, Eurovilla 2 Bldg., 118 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Call 8942830/ 0917-8539804.

GOINGS ON

CONFERENCE. The Center for Environmental Awareness and Education will hold the first Philippine Educators for the Environment Conference today and tomorrow at the Institute of Social Order, ISO Building, Ateneo de Manila, QC. Call 7217360.

DANCE. Every October, Zamboangueños all over the world gather to celebrate the Feast of La Virgen del Pilar, popularly known as "Fiesta Pilar," which falls on Oct. 12. The La Hermandad Zamboangueña Foundation Inc. (LHZ) is inviting all Zamboangueños, Christians and Muslims to a night of fun and dance (Oct. 23) at 7 p.m., at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Call 5618581 or 7246648. Main objective is to raise funds for the LHZ Shcolarship Program.

WORKSHOP. Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla will conduct a seminar-workshop on mini waterfall Zen garden 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 23-24, at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. Call 9394593 or 0917-8321352.

COMPETITION. The Search for Lady Premiere 2004 will have its Metro Manila-Luzon semifinals at Ratsky's Tomas Morato at 8 p.m., Oct. 23. Log on to www.premiere.com.ph.

SEMINAR. The Landscape Contractors Association of the Philippines will conduct technical seminars on the following dates: today and tomorrow, Dipolog City; Oct. 29-30, Davao City; Nov. 5-6, Subic Freeport; Nov. 23-24, Naga City; Nov. 26-27, Legazpi and Sorsogon City. Call 8900454/7285371.

AUTOGRAPH SIGNING. G Töngi will hold an autograph signing at the following Freeway stores: today, 2 p.m. at Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro; Nov. 14, 5 p.m., Market, Market!; Nov. 20, Abanao Square, Baguio; and Nov. 27, 5 p.m., SM Batangas. Freeway is giving away postcards with autographs.

CONCERT. Taking center stage tonight at 6 in Paco Park Presents is the UST Brass Ensemble, under the music direction of Prof. Hermie Ranera. Admission is free.

PAGEANT. Ms Earth pageant will be held on Oct. 24. The candidates were recently treated to sumptuous meals at Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati.

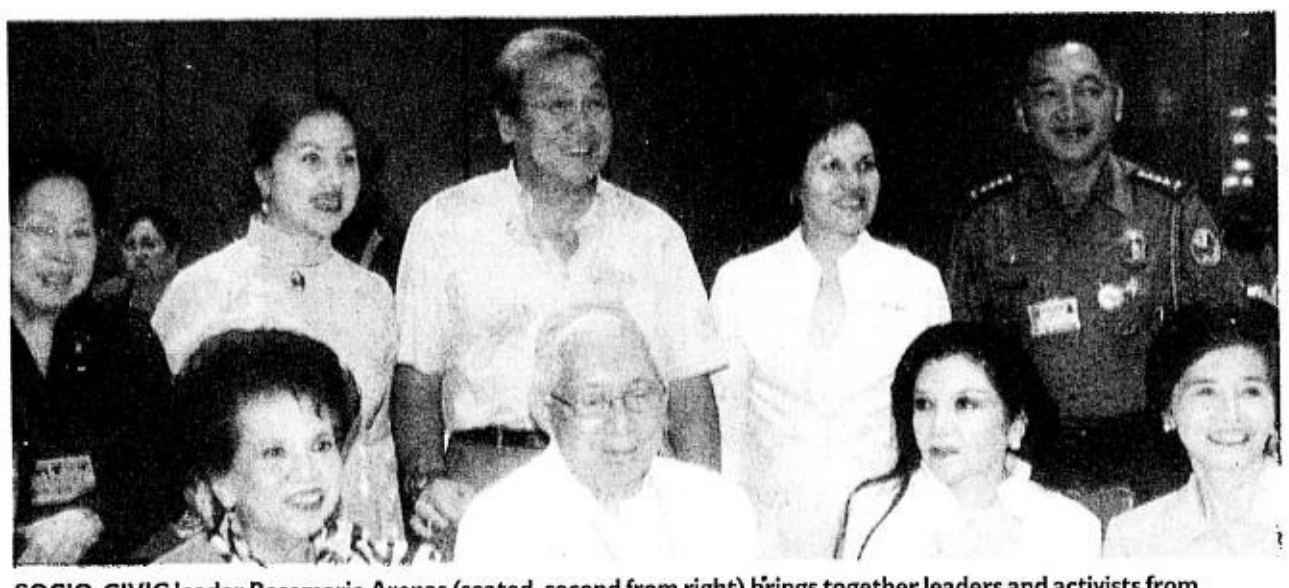
CONCERT. Concert at the Park presents "Katutubong Galaw at Tunog" on Oct. 24, 5 p.m. It features indigenous groups like Ayta Maganchi from Pampanga, Grupong Ambala from Bataan, the Kalingas, Bago Group from Ilocos Sur, Tedurays from Upi, Maguindanao, Matigsalogs and B'laan. Admission is free.

CHARITY EVENT. Princess Caroline of Monaco is co-hosting a charity dinner on Oct. 25 at Makati Shangri-La for the benefit of the children of Virlanie Foundation. Call 8962289/ 8955260.

PRESENTATION. Study International, Mentor International Bangkok's partner in international education advising, will have a presentation on England's St. Edmund's College at 6 p.m., Oct. 28, at Bel-Air function room, Hotel Intercontinental. Free admission. The presentation will be conducted by Ross Parsons, St. Edmund's admissions officer.

PROMO. Robinsons Malls celebrate Halloween on Oct. 30 with fun activities for children. The first 50 kids in costume who will register at the activity area starting 11 a.m. will receive loot bags, giveaways and goodies.

CELEBRATION. Sulo Hotel presents "Brooms and Spirits." The event features Halloween treats. A Black Malice Parade will also be held. Call 9245051 to 71.



SOCIO-CIVIC leader Rosemarie Arenas (seated, second from right) brings together leaders and activists from various sectors of society to launch a formal alliance that will work for decency and morality in response to pornography, prostitution of children and women, cybersex and similar forms of abuse. Shown with her are (standing from left) Justice Ines Luciano, Unesco Ambassador Preciosa Soliven, Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza, Presidential Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez, PNP Chief Edgardo Aglipay; (seated from left) Donnie Salvador, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Cielo Macapagal-Salgado.

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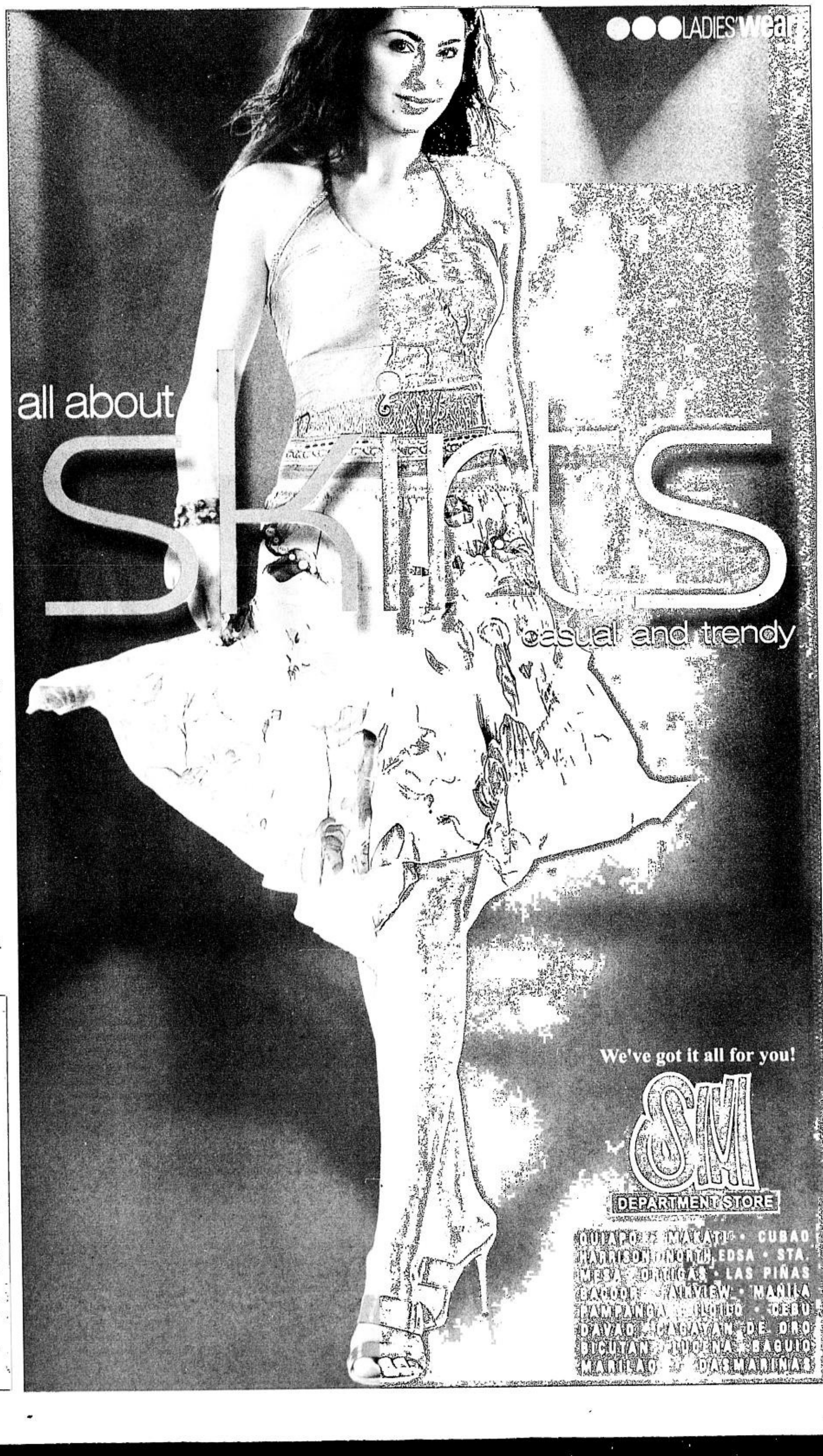


Buy two shirts, take one bag

BUY any two Jack Nicklaus casual woven shirts this October and get a signature carry-on bag for free.

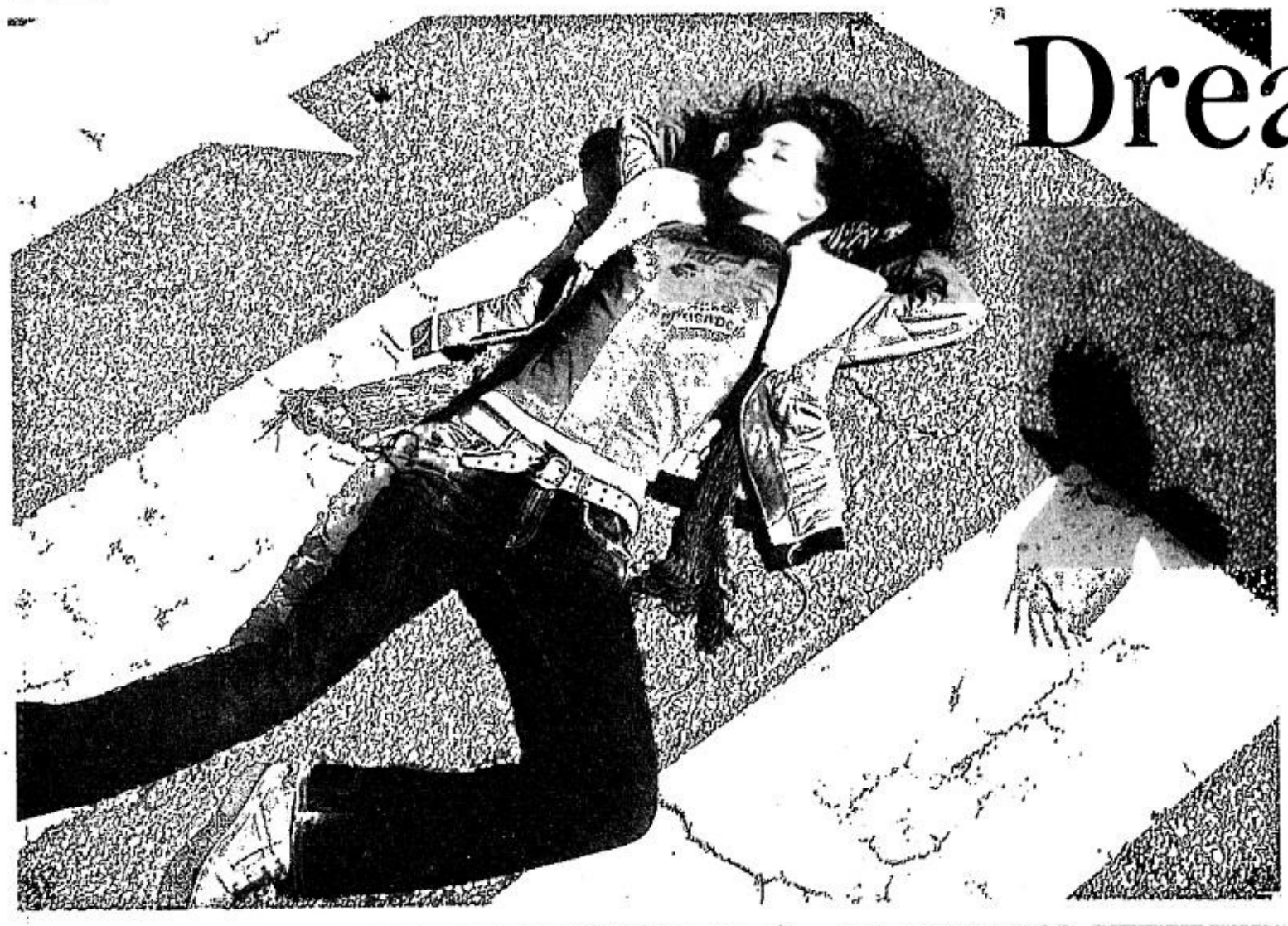
This season's collection of Jack Nicklaus apparel features a broad assortment of all-cotton casual woven shirts that mix camel, natural, navy blue with accents in red.

The shirts are designed for comfort and to fit different lifestyles. They are available in solids, checks and plaids in traditional button-down or straight color options.

Jack Nicklaus counters are in Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La, Alabang, Harrison Plaza, Cubao and Cebu.

Visit www.jacknicklausapparel.com for more details.

Dreams and re take to th

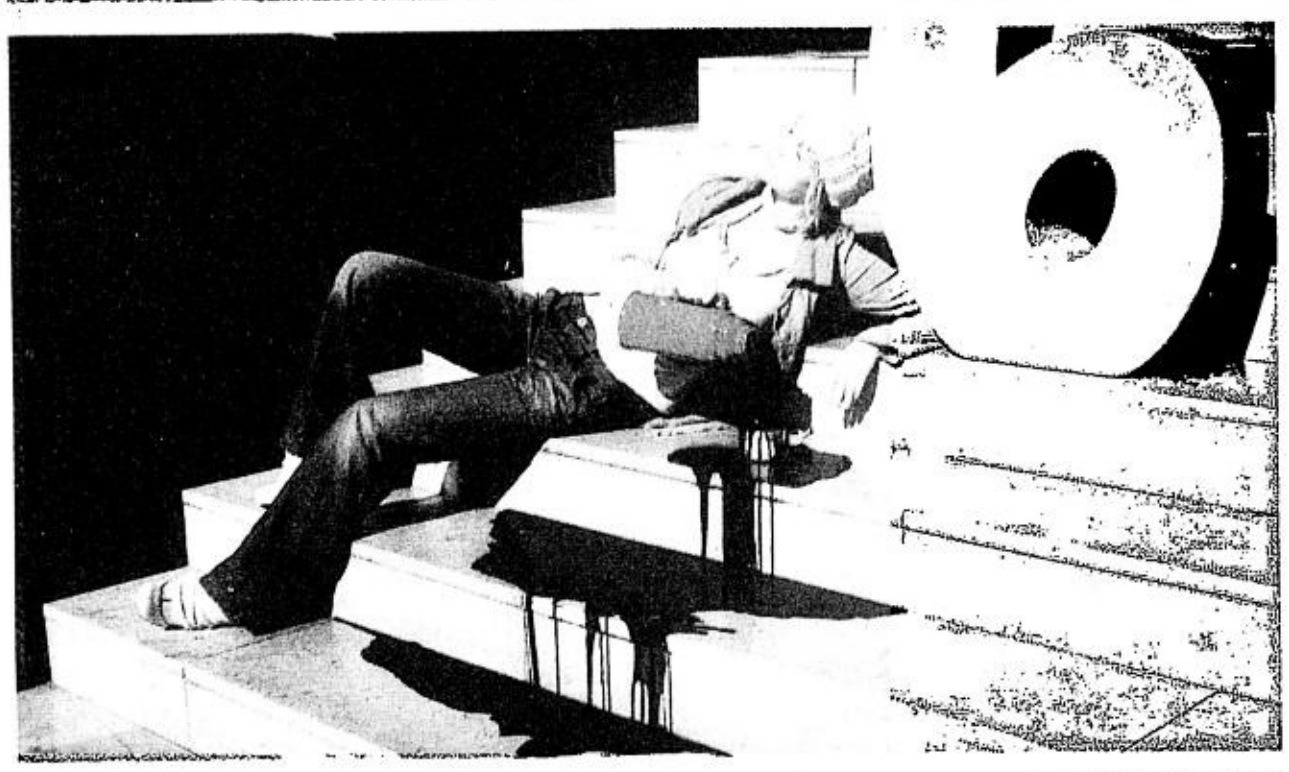


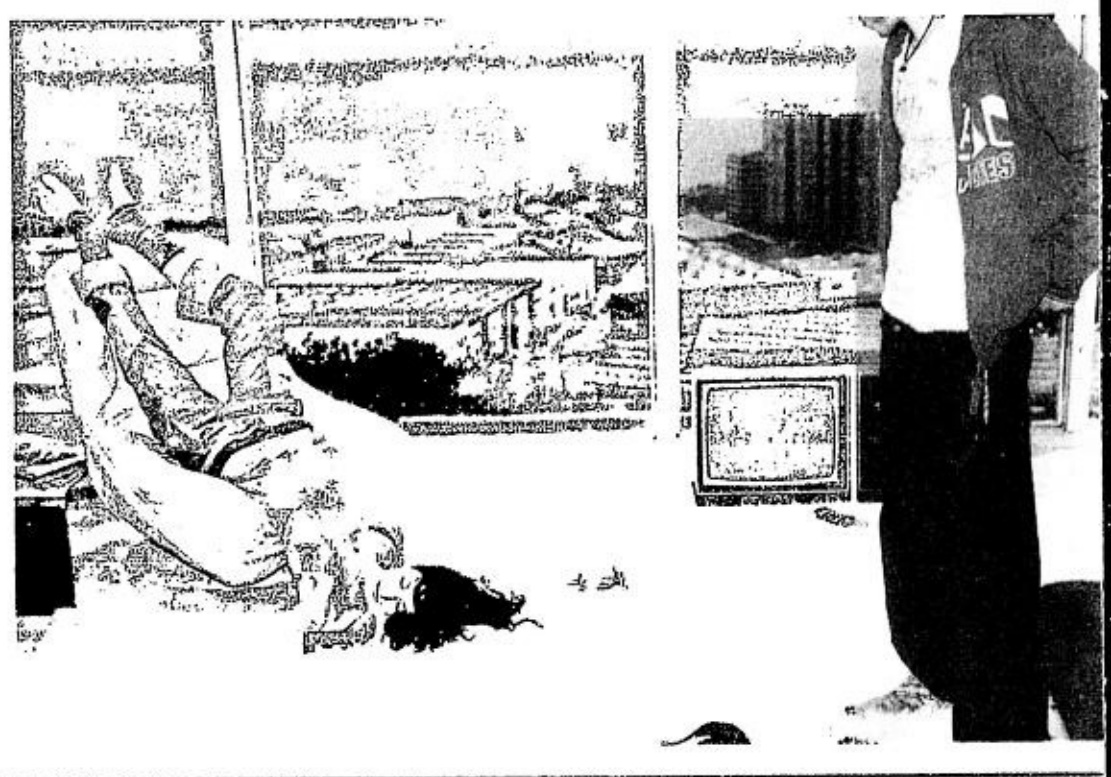
DIESEL dips into the mixed-up, anything-is-possible world of dreams and reveries in its Fall/Winter 2004 collection.

In print and poster images, we see individuals almost lost in their own world, peacefully daydreaming in unusual or surreal situations and positions.

A collective of 30 filmmakers, animators, artists, musicians and illustrators from all over the world worked on the ad campaign, coming up with a bizarre blend of barking grandmothers, ticking shadows, huge carrots and small gnomes, hole shadows, giant ice creams, exploding huts, horny horses, people with animals living inside them, miniature cities that thrive on your carpet and much more.

The images of this new, multidimensional Diesel communication project were shot by Dutch photographers Vivien Sassen and Martine Stig, and are the re-

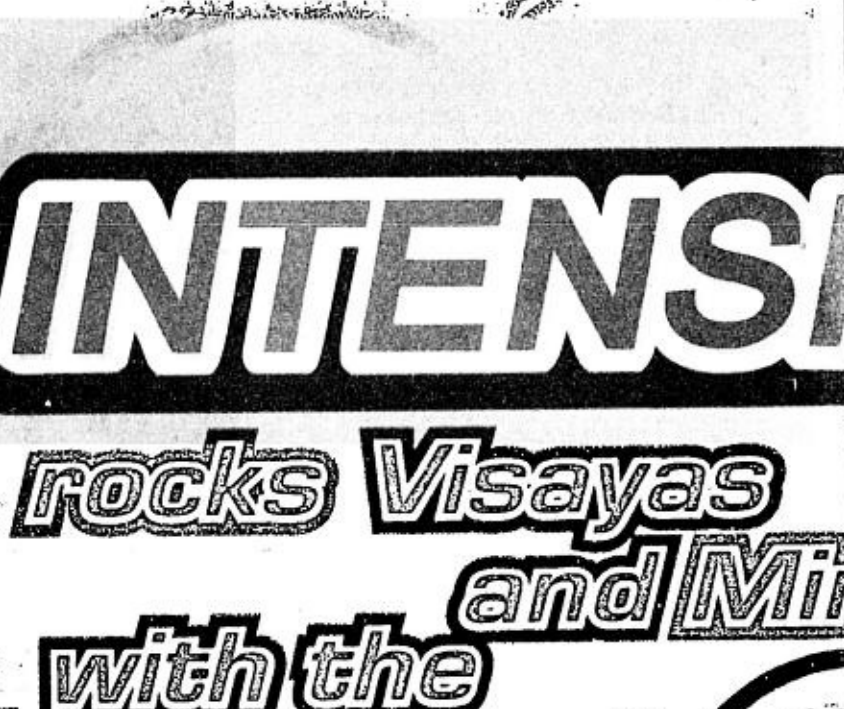


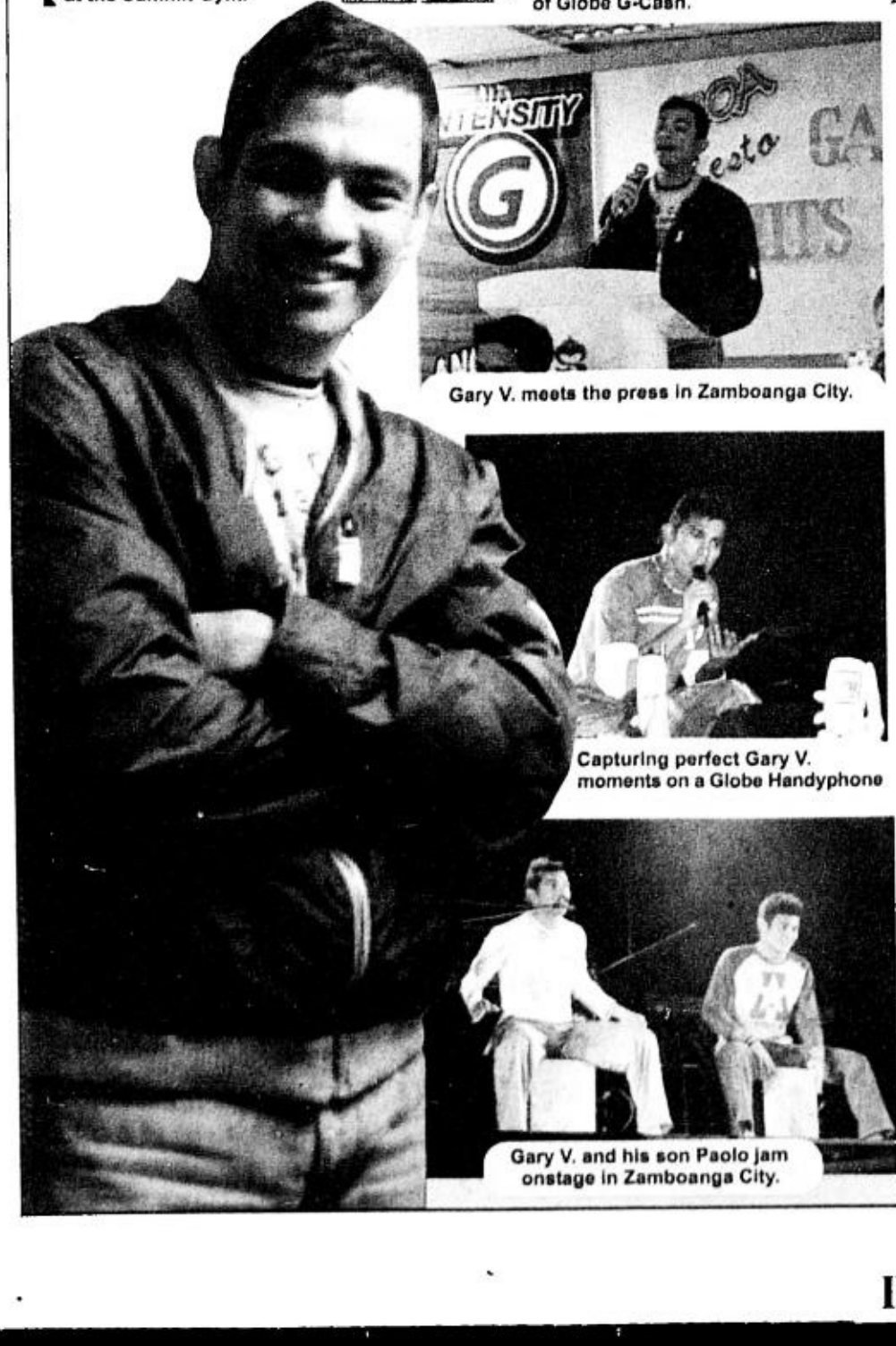


An Intensity G sales booth at the Summit Gym.

Residents of Zamboanga City turned out in droves to celebrate the launch of Globe G-Cash.

Gary V. fans packed the Summit Gym to the rafters.





Gary V. meets the press in Zamboanga City.

Capturing perfect Gary V. moments on a Globe Handyphone

Gary V. and his son Paolo jam onstage in Zamboanga City.

It is a common practice in the Philippines to celebrate births in a big way. Parents throw lavish house parties to celebrate the arrival of their new born infants, others hold colorful fiestas. Sticking to that time-honored Pilipino tradition, Globe's roving regional roadshow Intensity G marked the launch of Globe's newest service, G-Cash, with simultaneous festivities at the Masskara Festival in Bacolod City and at the Hermosa Festival in Zamboanga City.

G-Cash enables all Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers to use their phone as a mobile wallet. It facilitates the major cash transactions that Pilipino consumers engage in today: person-to-person transactions, purchases, payments, domestic fund transfers, and international remittance. Subscribers already used to Globe's over-the-air transactions AutoloadMAX and Share-a-Load will find G-Cash just as safe, reliable and easy to use. This service will empower them by turning their mobile phones into a tool that lets them avail of various financial services – especially useful for many Filipinos who currently have no access to even a bank account! With G-Cash, wireless and cardless payments and transfer of cash is as easy, as fast and as safe as sending Share-A-Load to friends, family or loved ones.

Imagine parents in the countryside now being able to send money to their children in Manila in the quickest, most convenient way. Or the millions of Overseas Filipino Workers being able to send money to their families here, at the speed of a text message.

Intensity G, G-Cash and Gary V rock Zamboanga

Zamboanga's *Hermosa* Festival and *Fiesta Pilar* honor the city's patron saint *Nuestra Señora La Virgen Del Pilar.* Intensity G made this year's celebration more exciting with its unique brand of fun events and activities such as sales blitzes and parties, as well as a motorcade and a concert featuring electrifying G-Cash endorser Gary Valenciano.

It has been 10 years since Gary V accounted for the large crowd during of 10,000 packed the Summit Gym Throughout his entire set, Gary V happening the day after his concert Cash.

Prior to Gary's concert, Gentxt al for 4 nights at the different bars in the Maneuvers for a dance worksho the Ateneo de Zamboanga whic

A star studded Intensity G launch f

Meanwhile, over in Bacolod City Festival was greatly heightened by t Bacolod City's reclamation area to t CBN sponsored entertainment extr variety show MTB. Gracing the ev dance ensemble Viva Hot Babes an revealed, the jampacked audience service endorser Gary V's awesome not enough, an evening concert by Mall also kept music lovers highly e

At the Masskara Festival, Intensi choreographer and Globe subscri choreography helped his street dance win both this and last year's Barangay

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veries e streets

sult of collaborative efforts between the Diesel Creative Team and KesselsKramer Amsterdam.

Print and poster images were released in August throughout the world, while the 30 dream videos are visible both on the Internet at www.diesel.com, as well as on a DVD attached to the seasonal Diesel catalogue and selected international publications. The DVD will also be distributed in the Diesel stores worldwide.

Diesel is located at Greenbelt 3, Power Plant Mall, and Robinsons Galleria, and is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

SHOTS FROM THE DIESEL FALL/WINTER 2004 COLLECTION AD CAMPAIGN

Filmy fashion

From page C2

cra and leather accents. Her pieces, some of which she paired with pants-cum-skirts, also had an edgy, unfinished look to them typical of Hussein Chalayan's clothes as seen in Tomlinson's video.

"I dyed and edged *piña* strips and made clothes out of them," she says. The look is decidedly young and rustic.

While certain designers couldn't seem to rise above their tendency to resort to gimmicks and theatrics to make up for lack of creativity, two names stood out that night for coming out with wearable but lovely clothes that managed to redefine their trademark styles.

We're referring to contemporaries (and future rivals?) Dennis Lustico and Jojie Lloren, by far two of the best Filipino designers of their generation. At the risk of sounding unfair, the night wouldn't have been complete for many without their participation, as all eyes seemed to be glued on their respective collections.

Lustico played with silk chiffon in various shades of green, said to be the hottest color this season. He draped and layered the fabrics that softly skimmed the models' bodies, before incorporating a number of gowns with knotted elements for visual drama.

"I was inspired by the serene music," he says, "and not the video's clothes, which were so vague. That's why I used lots of chiffon to simulate the feeling of lightness. I opted for something wearable in favor of the *gulat* (shock) factor."

More difficult clothes

Of the two, Lloren made the more difficult clothes, fashioned from two-toned chiffon in matte gold, bronze and copper that were so totally out of character compared to his structured black-and-white pieces.

A number of gowns were composed with diagonal and vertical strips that began from the bodice and ran continuously down the hem. One number even had crisscrossing diagonal strips on the back and front.

With the strips, Lloren also succeeded in giving the overused handkerchief hem a fresh look. He didn't do beadwork (not that the intricate gowns needed any) because of lack of time.

"The hard part was in the cutting and manual flowing of each strip," he says. "Each strip is cut on the bias so it conforms to the form."

At the rate Lustico and Lloren have been maturing creatively, it is time the word "young" is dropped and they are welcomed simply as fashion designers. But, well, if to be young means to be adventurous, unpredictable and imaginative, then the tag is just right.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

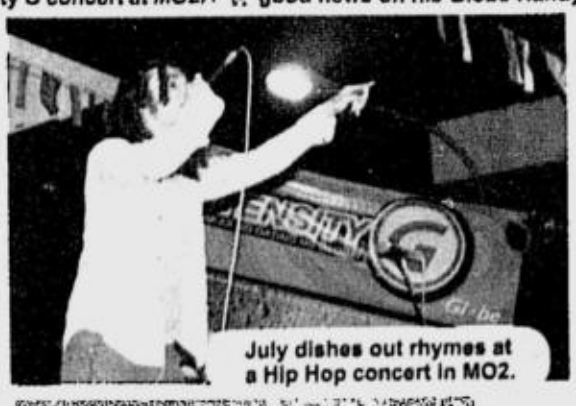
July meets and greets fans at an Intensity G sales booth in Robinsons City, Bacolod.

A *Masskara Dinagyawan* dance group fires up the launch of Globo G-Gash in Bacolod City.

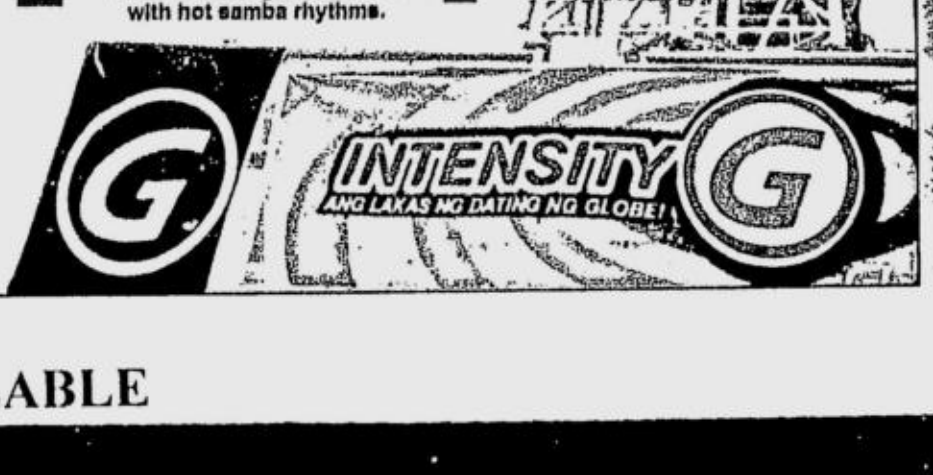
A member of *Barangay Villamonte*, this year's *Masskara Dinagyawan* Grand Slam Champion.

Locals enjoying an Intensity G concert at MO2.

We are the champions! Award winning choreographer Panoy Cabalcar breaks the good news on his Globe Handyphone.


July dishes out rhymes at a Hip Hop concert in MO2.

Sabor Latino ignites Bar 21 with hot samba rhythms.



last performance in Zamboanga which the motorcade and the concert. A crowd to see Mr. Pure Energy perform live. ised the audience about something big which turned out to be the launch of G-

o sponsored the La Carlota Drumbeaters Zamboanga City. Gentxt also brought in and Luke Mejares for a mini concert at also drew a very impressive crowd.

or G-Cash in Bacolod's Silver Masskara

, the excitement at this year's Masskara e launch of G-Cash. Crowds flocked to m and party at an Intensity G and ABS-vaganza aired live on popular noontime nt were the alluring all-female song and other Bacoleño artists. As G-Cash was danced and sang along to a live feed of performance in Manila. And if that was popular local band SRO at the Gaisano tertained.

G hooked up with multi-award winning per Panoy Cabalcar, whose innovative ng contingent from Barangay Villamonte and Open Level *Dinagyawan* Competition. The group also recently represented the Philippines at the Shanghai Tourism Festival in China. On the eve of a major Dinagyawan competition, Panoy told popular Globe 128XL SIM endorser July how important his Globe Handyphone was to him: "My Globe Handyphone is very indispensable for people like me. As a choreographer, I often travel to different parts of Negros Occidental and sometimes to far away places like Singapore, Hong Kong and China to compete and to perform. Globe has brought me closer to my family and loved ones, *kahit lagi akong wala*, because I always get to call or text them wherever I may be. Having my family just a phone call away to share my winning and not so winning moments is indeed a blessing," raved Panoy.

Other Intensity G events which proved to be big hits among Masskara revelers were the concerts highlighting Bacolod City's rich pool of musical talent like the funky hip-hop collective Coal Gray and the mesmerizing La Carlotta Drumbeaters at MO2. Of course, Intensity G sponsored gigs by top Manila acts such as former Mojo Fly vocalist Kitchie Nadal at Robinsons City was a huge draw especially for fans of alternative music. Concerts by Sabor Latino and the Rage Band at Bar 21, on the other hand attracted a more mature and sophisticated audience.

As always, the Intensity G sales blitzes in Centroplex, Robinsons City and Gaisano lured local and visiting Globe subscribers wanting to avail of the new Globe 128XL SIM and those who need to have their prepaid credits reloaded through AutoloadMAX.

Intensity G has made a deep and lasting connection with regional Globe subscribers by mounting relevant and fun-filled events and by giving them a host of innovative Globe services that cater to their communication and personal needs like the new G-Cash.

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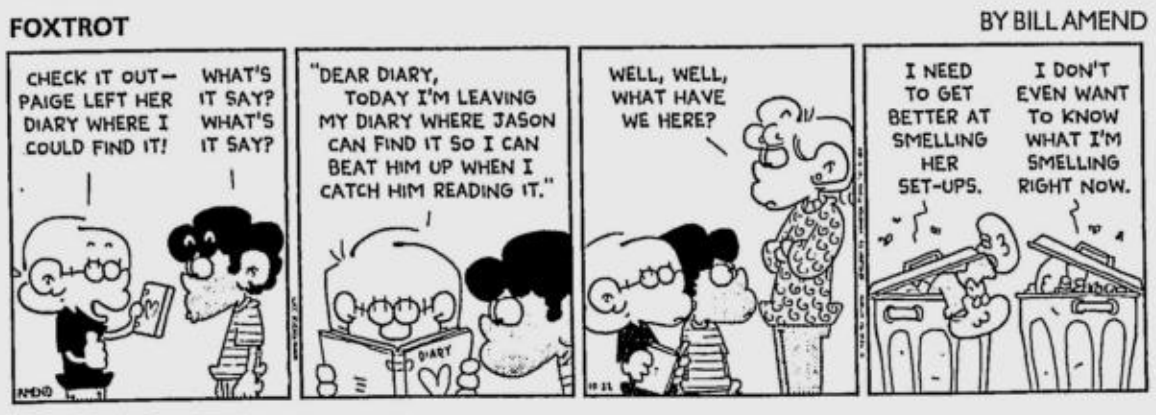
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

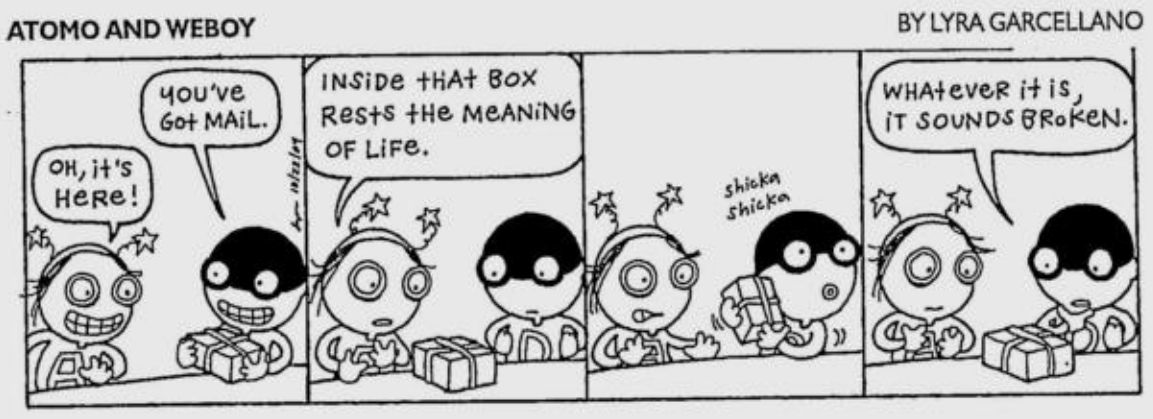
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

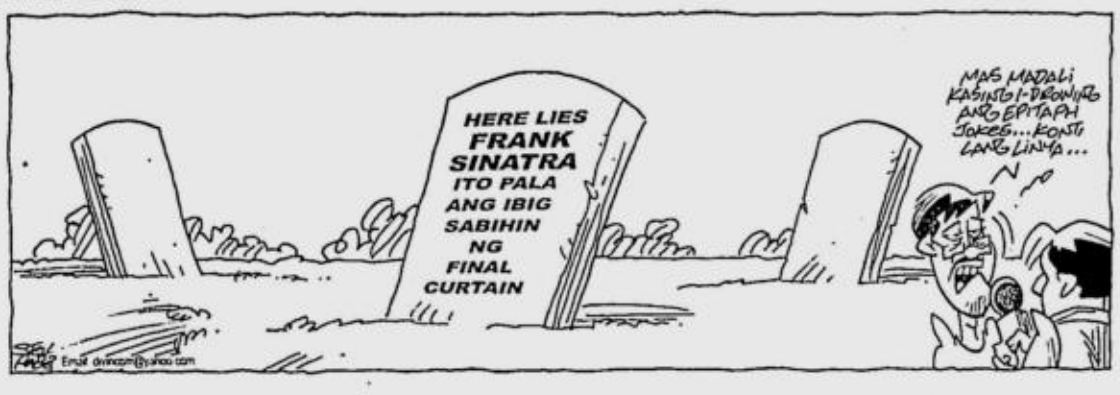
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Others love to be in your presence. You charm them. This gives you a lot of power when dealing with people. At heart, you're a romantic, but you're in control of your emotions. You live life to the fullest. Privately, you're quite rebellious. In the year ahead, you'll focus on your closest partnerships and relationships.
Birthdate of: Catherine Deneuve, actress; Annette Funicello, actress; Timothy Leary, teacher/philosopher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're concerned with shared property, taxes, debt, credit and anything that you own jointly . This includes responsibilities for things or people.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today the Sun moves opposite your sign. This focuses your attention on partnerships and close friendships. In the month ahead, you'll learn about yourself through others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Act on this growing feeling to get organized! Clean out closets, the garage and lockers. Get rid of rubbish and stuff you don't use.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel playful and flirtatious. For the next few weeks, you want to party! Go ahead. Grab a little vacation if you can. Enjoy yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus now turns to home, family and domestic matters. Discussions with a parent or a family member are important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Fasten your seat belts! The tempo of your daily activities is accelerating. In the next few weeks, you're busy with errands, short trips and increased reading and writing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good time to take stock of what you truly value. If you don't know what's important to you, how do you know what to hold on to?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Sun is now in your sign. Happy Birthday! It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. (It's appropriate to put yourself first now.)

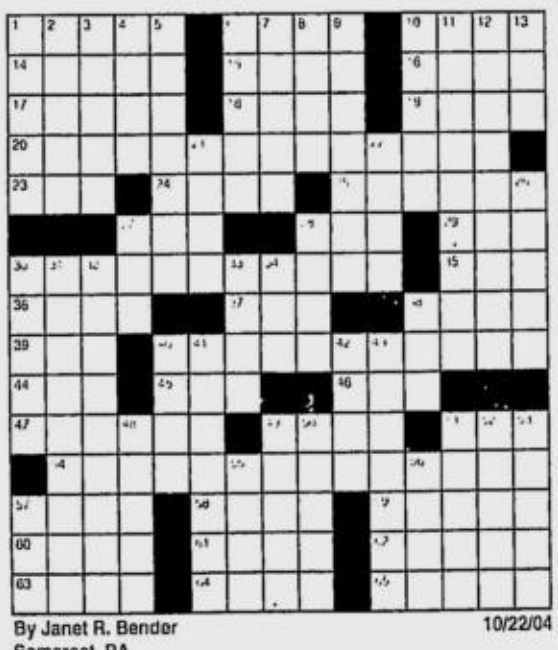
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You need some downtime to be quiet and pensive. You've got a lot of thinking to do. As your birthday nears, your personal year is ending. What did you think of it?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Get ready for a popularity run ahead! Suddenly, everybody wants to see your face. You might as well accept all invitations. In fact, extend a few yourself. Be friendly!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Sun is now at high noon in your chart. This acts like a spotlight on you. Expect to be singled out for extra responsibilities for something in the next few weeks. Say yes.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you have a chance to travel or take a course that expands your experience of the world in the next few weeks, do it. You will find it enormously satisfying and rewarding.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Janet R. Bender
Somerset, PA

10/22/04

ACROSS
1 Doorway sides
6 Kind of palm
10 Funny Bombeck
14 Like some gases
15 Norway's patron saint
16 __ ex machina
17 Clerk, at times
18 Take it easy
19 Longing
20 2003 winners of 30A
23 Craving
24 __ Beach, FL
25 Detection device
27 CSA soldier
28 Lair
29 Glob or mod ending
30 Annual sports event
35 Tease
36 Garden bloom
37 Guitarist Paul
38 M. Descartes
39 Part of a table or journey
40 Another name for 30A
44 Hot dog's problem?
45 Sony rival
46 Qty.
47 Join with a molten alloy
49 Up to the task
51 Tiger's org.
54 2003 losers of 30A
57 Parasitic arachnid
58 Bondsman's payment
59 Pub missiles
60 Cost per unit
61 Nick and Nora's pooch
62 Follow in order
63 Hoity-toity one
64 Unfreeze
65 Submarine areas

DOWN
1 Snap
2 Old-womanish
3 Honeydew, e.g.
4 Rabbit's title
5 Struggled vigorously
6 Energy type
7 Dollar rival
8 Huxley novel, "Eyeless in __"
9 Supervise
10 __ Arlington Robinson
11 Acquires more coverage
12 Benito the dictator
13 Volcanic dust
21 Collision gals
22 Part of SLR
26 Instrument with three strings
27 "Kidnapped" author's initials
28 Harrow blade
30 Cunning trickery
31 Portland paper
32 Verdi opera
33 Ms. Fitzgerald
34 Fam. member
38 Q-U connection
40 Glenn of the Eagles
41 Tumbler
42 Followers of tra
43 Changed for the better
48 Nerd
49 Japanese guard dog
50 Rule of an organization
51 As such
52 Flashy outfit
53 Beasts of burden
55 Hasty
56 "Citizen __"
57 " _ Miniver"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	L	E	F		L	O	A	F	S		M	A	N	S
A	I	D	E		E	R	R	O	L		E	X	I	T
R	E	I	N		N	A	C	R	E		R	E	L	Y
P	U	T	S	O	N	T	H	F	D	O	G			
				P	O	E			R	E	L	A	Y	
S	L	O	G	A	N		G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E
C	O	B	O	L		S	A	L	T		P	T	A	
H	O	L	D	S	O	N	E	S	H	O	H	S	E	S
U	S	A			W	A	L	T		G	U	E	S	T
S	E	T	T	I	N	G	S		W	R	E	S	T	S
S	N	F	A	K				A	R	T				
			G	E	T	S	O	N	E	S	G	O	A	T
W	I	N	G		A	O	R	T	A		L	O	C	O
E	R	I	E		F	A	C	E	T		E	Z	R	A
B	A	N	D		T	R	A	S	H		N	E	E	D

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10/22/04

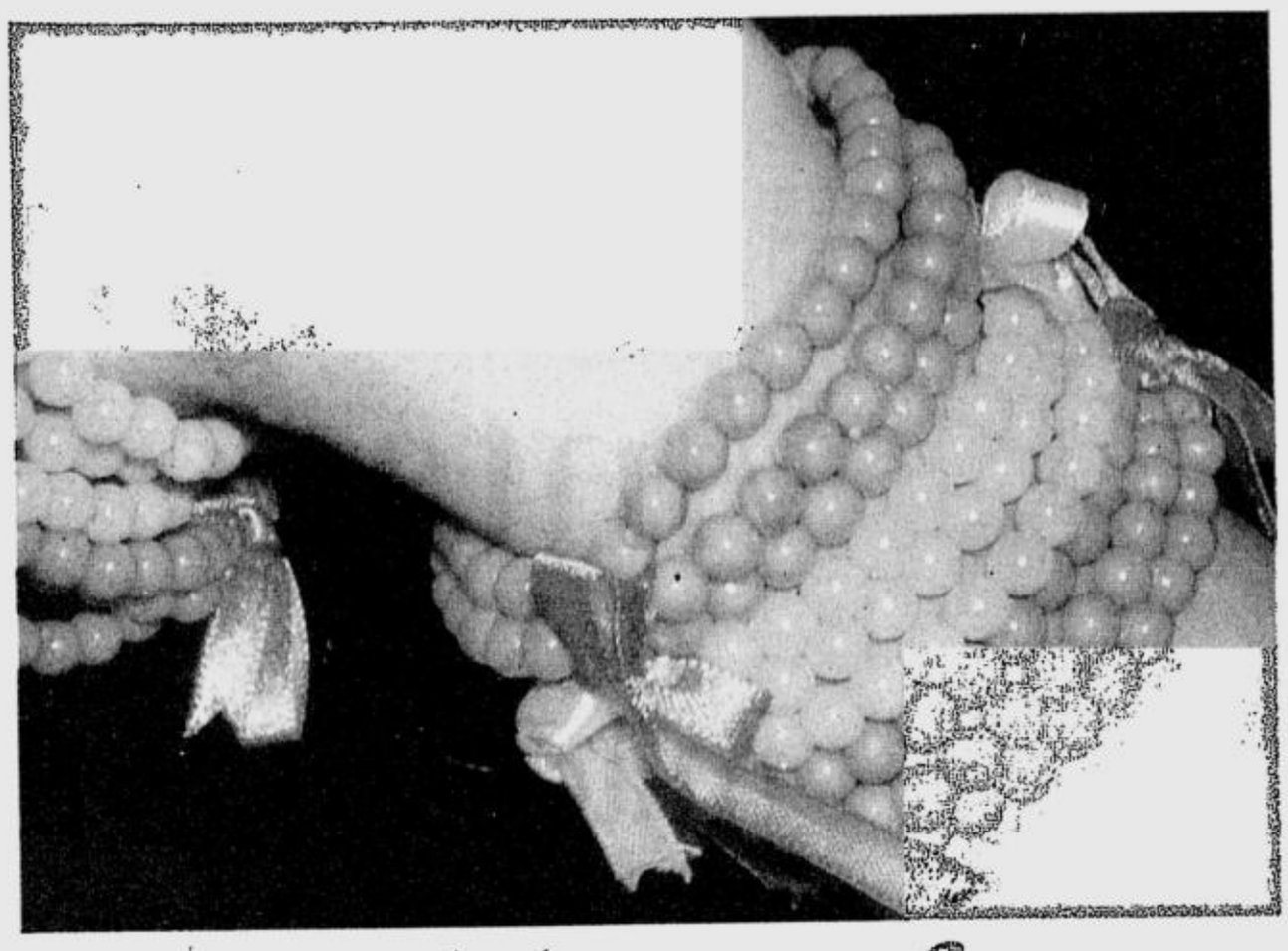
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

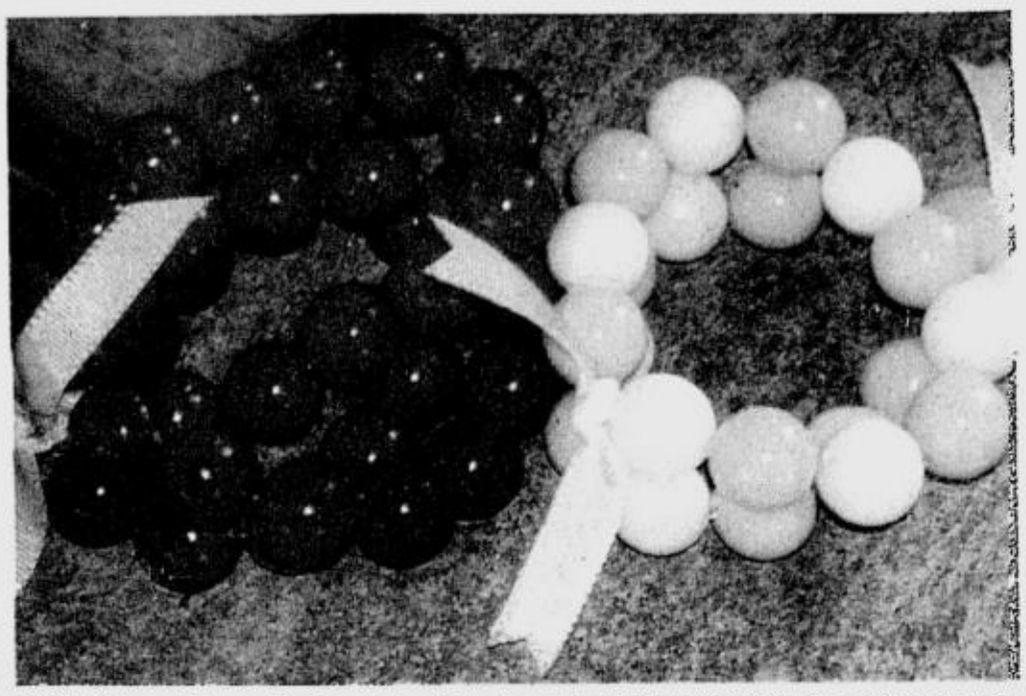
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

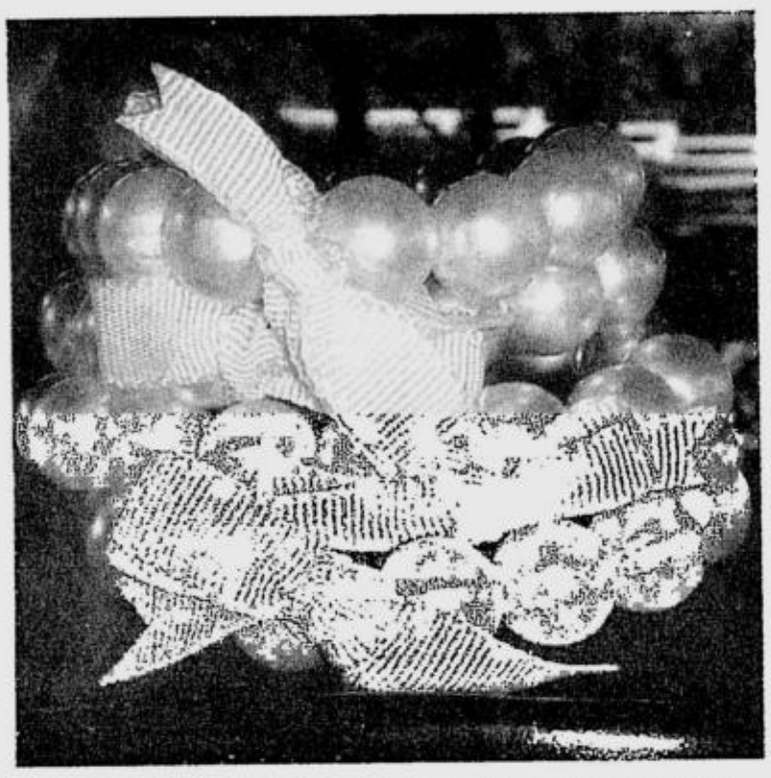
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





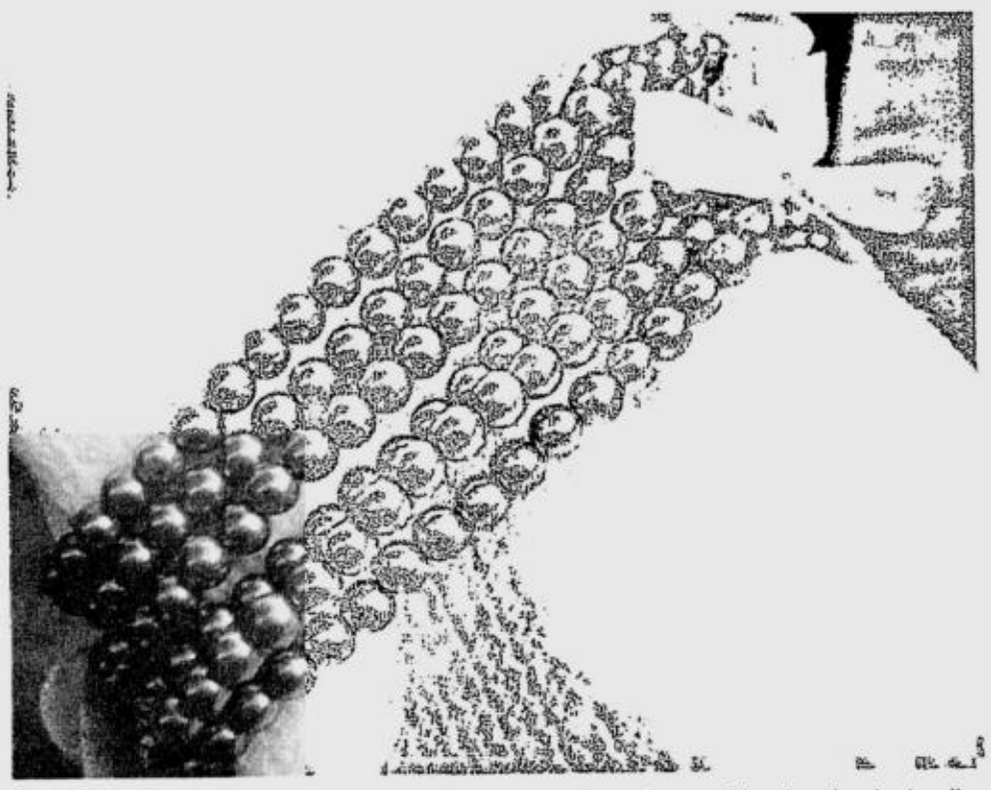
A PINK-blue-white combination (above) is a fun and playful choice, while three triple strands (left) worn simultaneously will give you a thick bracelet. Call 0917-5311264 or e-mail unit36d@vasia.com.

Ribbons for your Wrist



TAKE a basic pearl bracelet. With a ribbon accent, you can dress up this jewelry piece and express a lot about your sense of style.

Ribbons are a feminine touch to something ordinary and can dress up the simplest piece. The possibilities are endless. What you choose to wear on your wrist does not need to match your earrings or necklace. Just let ribbons do the talking



GO for the silver touch. A pink ribbon adds a contrasting color combination that is visually appealing.

CHIC corporate attire by Maldita

Clothes store opens new branch

MALDITA has opened a branch at the ground floor of Market! Market! at the Global City, Fort Bonifacio.

The opening was attended by Team Maldita: Jeff Te, Mai Jante, Vic Desante, Cooky Cabrera and Rose Ongonion. Movie and television personality Polo Ravales was special guest.

With the opening of the Market! Market! branch, Maldita now has 16 branches including those at SM North Edsa, Megamall, Manila, Sucat, Fairview, Las Piñas, Dasmariñas, Cebu City and San Fernando; Robinsons Galleria and Ermita; Glorietta 1, Festival Mall and Outlet Yard Quezon Avenue.

Footwear for active soles

GBX, the cutting-edge US footwear brand, is increasingly becoming a major player in the US national market, earning it the tag as "America's fastest-growing footwear brand."

According to the prestigious NPD Fashion Survey, GBX's share of the men's casual fashion footwear market increased from 1.9 percent for the 12 months ending June 2002 to 8.8 percent in 2004. Out of all the casual brands in the US, GBX had the largest increase in market share from 2002 to 2004.

GBX Rekord, perforated leather trainers with suede detailing

GBX's growing profile reflects the increasingly sophisticated tastes of footwear consumers everywhere. The brand, which is a subsidiary of fashion-footwear leader Harbor Footwear USA, boasts of the widest range of styles, colors, top-quality manufacturing and constant technological innovations.

GBX addresses the footwear needs of a diverse range of consumers. The Club Fashion collection features classic men's footwear—oxfords, loafers, boots and slip-ons—that can go from office to after-hours. The Athleisure collection of sporty styles offers both fashion and performance, with GBX's patented Cushtech lightweight in-sole polymer gel, for superior shock absorption, excellent cushioning and long-lasting comfort. The Streetwear collection has oven-treated Active Canvas sneakers in playful colors.

GBX has stores in Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Galleria; SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM Manila. It also has outlets in department stores nationwide.

GBX is distributed in the Philippines by 128 Dream Fountain Corp.

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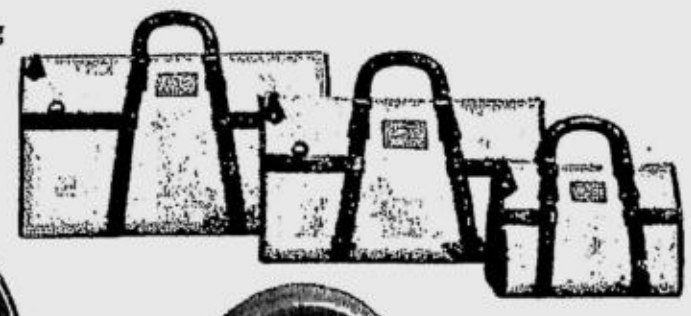
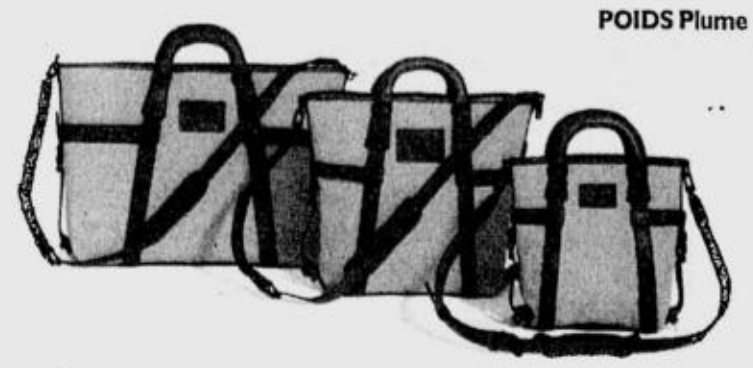
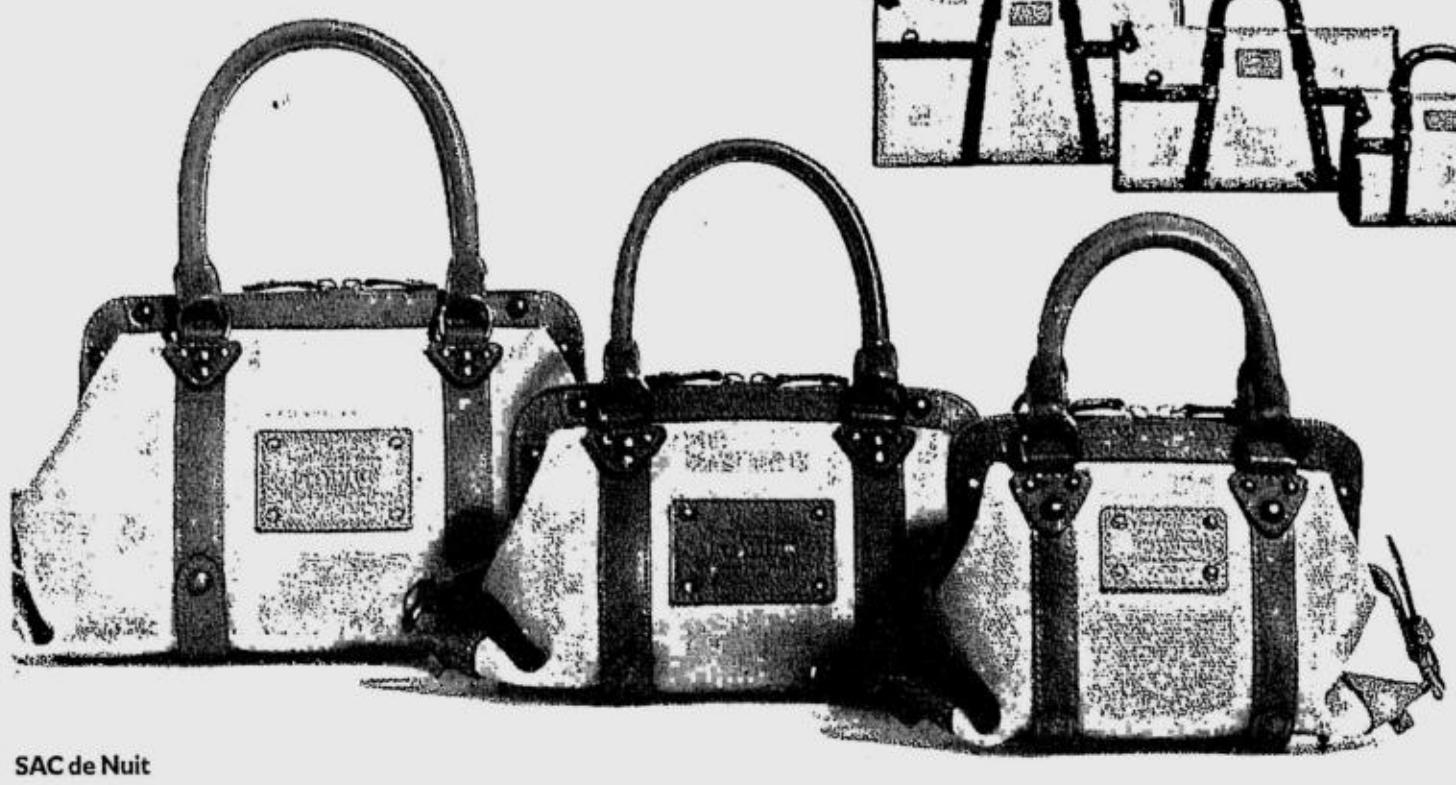
NEVERFULL Bag



POIDS Plume





SAC de Nuit

Vintage designs made new

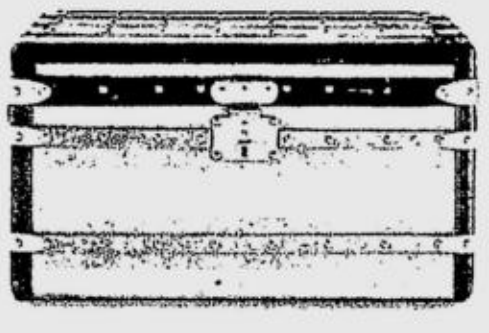
HAVING traveled through 150 years of history, Louis Vuitton revisits one of its first designs. Created in 1858, the Toile Trianon came to life four years after the opening of the House. This original design dressed up the very first creation of Louis Vuitton: a flat trunk circled in iron and enhanced with wooden slats.

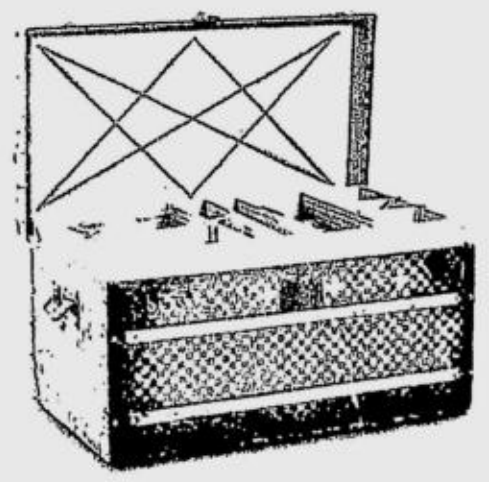
The brand launches a new line of bags based on the Toile Trianon—the original LV flat trunk circled in iron and enhanced with wooden slats. The new bags are named the Sac de Nuit, Neverfull Bag and Poids Plume, each name borrowed from vintage models.

Studs and metallic pieces in brushed brass draw their inspiration from the iron used at the time to circle the trunk. The finishings in brown goatskin are a reference to the wooden slats, while the gray canvas of the Toile Trianon harmonizes with the House signatures.

From handbag to weekend bag, each model is available in three sizes.

Louis Vuitton is located at G/L, Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Visit www.louisvuitton.com





(FROM TOP) Brass plaque from the bed-truck that once belonged to Gaston-Louis Vuitton; flat-top trunk in gray toile Trianon, special order, 1858; Damier canvas, metal-lined mail trunk, 1903

PAGE of Louis Vuitton catalog, London 1892: instructions and drawing of two "Neverfull" bags

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San Isidro Labrador, QC

Compaq Presario Notebook
RONNIE CRUZ SISON
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa
ROSALYN BOLADO TAN
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr

₱100,000 Greenbelt 3 and 4 Shopping Cash Credits
PATRICIO MIGUEL T. TIO
Binondo, Manila
LYDIA DE LEON YAP
Holy Spirit, QC

₱100,000 Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Shopping Cash Credits
VIRGILIO D.C. HERCE
Don Bosco St., Makati

₱100,000 The Podium Shopping Cash Credits
ARIEL P. GUTIERREZ
Santol, QC

Sony Home Theater System
MARIO V. TIAOQUI
Dasmariñas Village, Makati
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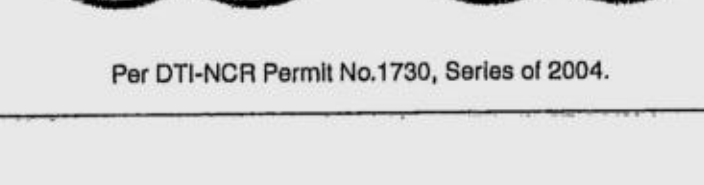

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LIFESTYL

That fresh-out-of-bed glam look

Playful, colorful and extremely cool hair products that are a status symbol have hit town

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IF namedropping were a crime, the people behind Tigi Bed Head would be on their way to the gallows.

In a press statement, they mention élite celebrities from Britney to Beyoncé among Bed Head avid users. Then there's Halle Berry, Sarah Jessica Parker, Charlize Theron, Paris Hilton, Justin Timberlake, Enrique Iglesias, Ben Affleck, Lenny Kravitz—heck—even Liza Minnelli! And how about Meg Ryan, Sharon Stone, Ewan McGregor, the wacky Osbournes, the rockers of Coldplay, Limp Bizkit, No Doubt, Foo Fighters?

Why all these celebrities?

It is because the Bed Head haircare and styling range is sort of a status symbol, according to one stylist. Such an A-list clientele makes it a cut above drugstore- and supermarket-bought styling brands. And of course, the price point does that, too.

Only in salons

In the Philippines, Bed Head is available in 28 of Metro Manila's top salons.

"Each of the products requires advice from professional hairdressers, that's why Bed Head is available only in salons," explains Audra Lucero of Hairministry Inc., Philippine distributor of the Texas, USA-based brand. "The hairdresser has to 'educate' clients on the specific use of each product to achieve a particular look.

THAT/ D3

GLOBAL Ethnicity by Danny Katalbas of Emphasis Salon

ORIENTALIA by Kenti Tam of Picasso Salon

ATHLETICA by David Charlton of David's Salon

ESTHETICA by
Pin Antonio
of Salon de Manila

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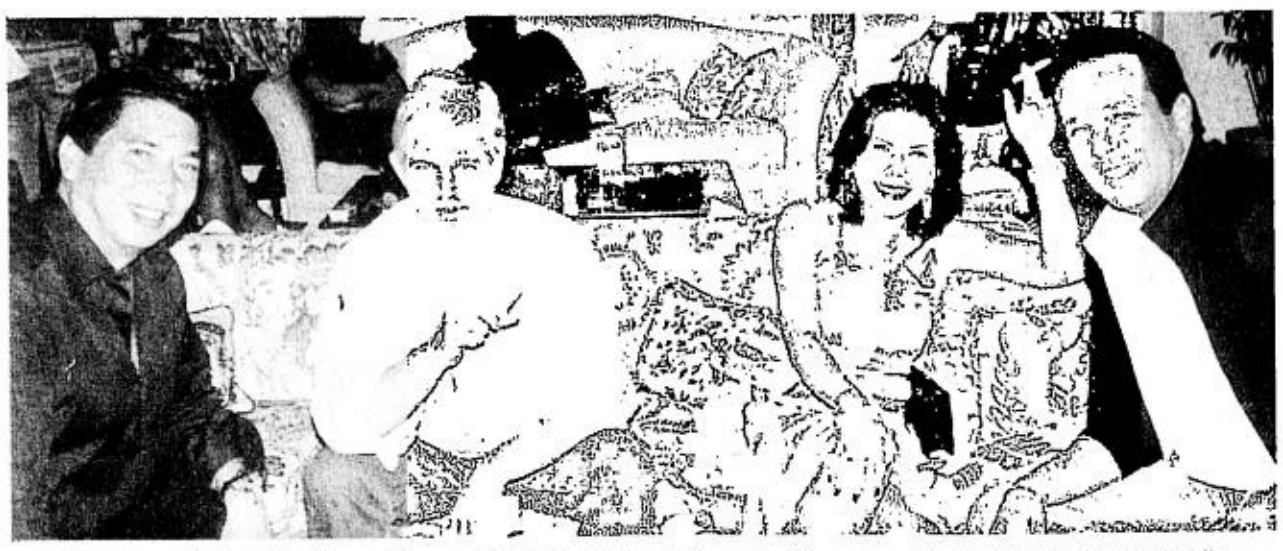


CAN'T wait to sit down for dinner. Nuvo and V's hotshot Louie Ysmael with our host Andy Soriano, lovely Doodie Menchaca Tuason and international polo player Iñigo Zobel

ALL set for the Thai dinner. Exotic beauty Menchu Menchaca Soriano, gorgeous Carol Garcia and witty business entrepreneur Al Tengco

New chef on the block

ALL in the *famille*. Patroness of the arts Imelda Cojuangco with daughter-in-law Lizette Banzon Cojuangco

HIP, fashionable Kay Tinga and Jojo Ongsiako

EYE-CATCHING sisters-in-law Maria Orosa-Uy and Liza Uy

HOT, hot men shaking our town: Philtown's heavyweights Edward Castro, Kit Vergara, Mon Bienvenida and Rally Martinez

SAY it with cheese and wine. Sleek gals Jojo Ocampo, Carmela Ongsiako, Rina Go and Joanne Ramirez

MECA Prieto with Marivic Concepcion, Mely Concepcion Hechanova, Marriene and Nando Pimentel

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

Whenever king of the nightlife **Louie Ysmael** invites you to dinner, especially one prepared by his eye-catching wife, the multitalented **Cecille Chang**, you definitely must go, dahlings.

Well, a couple of sleeps ago, Louie did just that. Cecille had just jetted back from Bangkok where she goes to every now and then to take up various cooking courses. After all, Cecille is a top graduate of her class in the renowned Phuket Thai Cooking School.

There was a group of us invited for Cecille's Thai dinner held at the home of business magnate **Andy Soriano**. Strong winds and a blackout made Louie cancel the dinner in his home, but Andy's abode made for a fine substitute.

Bringing the ingredients herself from Bangkok, Cecille hit the kitchen and went on a roll preparing an excellent authentic Thai dinner. Dig this menu: For appetizer, it was Mieng Phama, consisting of palm sugar, ginger and grated coconut in pepper leaves.

The soup was Tom Yam Goong, a Thai hot and sour prawn soup. For the salad, it was Som Tam, a super green-papaya salad. Then she had three kinds of to-die-for curries. Gaeng Khed Wan Gai, which is green chicken curry; Pha Naeng Neua, beef curry in sweet peanut sauce and Gaeng Phed Ped Yang, red roast duck curry.

Needless to say, *palanggas*, the chosen invitees went gaga over all the curries, and finally, the Phad Thai, Thai fried noodles, and fried Thai-style rice. Most of us who were on the phenomenal South Beach Diet threw it out the window for that night, dahlings.

Everyone was urging Cecille, "Open your own restaurant now!" With a smile, she said, "Hopefully soon, but not before I take up my professional master cooking class in mid-October with a master chef for a one-on-one course in Bangkok."

Cecille then told me of her plans to introduce herself as a private-party chef on authentic Thai food when she returns from her intensive training in Thailand. In fact, she already has several bookings for December!

Hey, people, get ready to meet this superb new chef on the block. I'll definitely be one of those in line.

Pitoy Moreno's soulful style

When **Pitoy** calls, *palanggas*, we all come running, and that's exactly what happened when Asia's emperor of fashion held an exclusive sneak preview of his two-day fashion extravaganza at the CCP on Oct. 26 and 27 (can't wait to see it!).

Joining hands together for this fashion and fund-raising milestone are some of Manille's most beautiful and chic style icons-cum-respected philanthropists. The cocktail reception was hosted by Philtown chair and supporter of the Laura Vicuna Foundation and Gawad Kalinga, real-estate business magnate **Joey Concepcion**, no less.

Leading the pack were glamorous patroness of the arts **Imelda Cojuangco**, cucumber-cool **Tingting Cojuangco**, lady with a heart of gold **Vicky Cuisia** and young woman of substance, **Marissa Orosa Concepcion**.

The glass-walled lobby of the spectacular One McKinley Place was beautifully dressed up for the occasion, *palanggas*, and a yummy buffet was prepared by La Tasca, but who else?

Gawad Kalinga's international director **Tony Meloto** shared his foundation's drive to create 700,000 homes in the next seven years. And Gawad Kalinga volunteer **Dylan Wilk**, a foreigner at that, touched our hearts when he declared his love for the Philippines.

Joey C. expressed strongly the importance of providing support and love to abused street children. A sad reality, but "with the help and care of the privileged, this reality can be turned around for the good," he said.

The big moment was the 30-minute fashion presentation by Pitoy and, for a dash of style, some songs by **Cocoy Laurel**. The pieces shown were timeless and elegant creations, as only Asia's Fashion Czar could pull off. Pitoy took his bow amid thunderous applause.

It was truly an evening of fashion and compassion, and an exciting preview of the not-to-be-missed Ginintuang Moreno at the Nicanor Abelardo Theater, CCP, on Oct. 26 and 27. For tickets, call 8919999.

CECILLE Chang Ysmael whips up some of the best Thai food this side of town.

WOMEN behind the FCCP Annual Ball Committee 25th anniversary: editor of the silver anniversary souvenir program Olga Severino Martel, director of ways and means dinner-dance committee Fortune Ledesma, FCCP president Mellie Ablaza, chair Nene Leonor, vice chair Carrie Bautista; (standing) members Fanny Blanco and Nini Layug and Chit Gohu, souvenir program chair

INTERCON'S Portugal foodfest chef, Luis Miguel Marques Caseiro

Heady blend of cultures

To dine on Portuguese cuisine is to taste the presence of other countries, other cuisines. You'll imagine images of the vast empire that once stretched from Brazil in South America to Angola and Mozambique in Africa and exotic Goa in India. In a manner of speaking, *palanggas*, each of these countries helped stir the pot.

Portuguese cooking can now be savored at the cool Café Jeepney of the InterContinental Hotel. Recently, we got acquainted with Portugal's gastronomic delights when we dug into the resto's wide selection of buffet specials, all excellently whipped up by talented guest chef, *el guapo*, Luis Miguel Marques Caseiro, who jetted in from Portugal.

Check out these treats, dahlings, which we all agreed were tops in our long list. Appetizers: Codfish Pie (Bola de bacalhau); Cod salad with chickpeas; Clam with Portuguese smoked sausage (Ameijoas com chourio); Roast Portuguese sausage (Chourica assada); and Broad bean stew with spicy smoked sausage.

Soups: "Moscavidensei" soup and Chestnut soup, farmer style. Meat: Duck with rice, Braga style, Steak Portuguese style; Roast pork with turnip greens; and Braised lamb deliciously cooked Coimbra style.

Yummy desserts: Custard tartlets; Sweet chestnuts pudding, which I could swear tasted like marron glace; sponge cake from Alfeizerao; "Pudim de Ovos" from a recipe by the monks of the Convent of Alcobaca; and Cottage cheese mousse—this one was my favorite.

Plus excellent Portuguese wine to drown it all, of course!

Today, Oct. 22, is your last chance to check out this gastronomic festival, *palanggas*. Mmm, absolutely yummy. Do call 8159711 local 162.

FCCP silver anniversary

It's a go for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP), which is holding a ball tomorrow at the grand ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Among the event's beneficiaries are the Philippine High School for the Arts based in Makiling, Laguna; Ballet Philippines; Ballet Manila; Kanawidan Foundation for Arts and Culture; University of the East Fine Arts Students; Bamboo Organ Foundation; Cebu Youth Orchestra, *palanggas*.

"As it celebrates its 25th anniversary, the FCCP renews its commitment to the development of art and culture and pledges to continue its work with greater dynamism in the forthcoming years," said co-chair Nene Leonor.

Okay gals, get your dancing shoes ready!

THREE stars of the night: couturier of the hour Pitoy Moreno, charity-oriented beauty Marissa Orosa C. and her husband, mega business magnate and realtor, Joey Concepcion

AURORA FotoFacial

AURORA-treated hand before (top) and after (above)

POLARIS Major version on lips

Non-surgical alternatives to facelifts

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

TOP Canadian plastic surgeon Dr. Stephen Mulholland says an epidemic that has spread among American women is beginning to afflict the rest of the world.

"Women no longer want to have face lifts; they just want the results without the inconvenience of downtime and surgery," he said.

Mulholland was in the country recently to introduce two new gadgets. The Aurora and Polaris machines use radio frequency (RF) to smooth fine lines and firm up sagging skin in several brief sessions at 3-4 weeks apart.

No proof of the 'crime'

Procedures using the machines will not show any signs of treatment on the skin's surface, except for redness that fades in an hour or two even in people with sensitive skin. So you walk in and out and continue with your routine with people none the wiser.

The Aurora FotoFacial is the union between IPL (intense pulsed light) and RF. It has two versions. Aurora Major is used in the removal of pigmentation/discolorations such as melasma, freckles, age spots, acne marks, spider veins, redness from irritation and rosacea. It is also known to shrink pore size and balance extreme combination skin by controlling oil from greasy areas while stimulating collagen and moisture on dry aging areas.

On the other hand, Aurora Minor firms up the skin and smoothens wrinkles. It can only correct fine to moderate wrinkles.

Painless

The Aurora uses low electricity so there is little pain, making anesthesia unnecessary for most patients. By itself, it is appropriate for women who have hit their 30s and are starting to notice some mild sagging and fine lines.

Asian skin, which tends to suffer from discoloration and sun damage, will also benefit from the procedure.

At 34, this is for me as it addresses my skin concerns, and I only have to return every four weeks for rejuvenation and maintenance.

The Polaris is the union between conducted RF and laser light energy. The Major version is for firming up the skin and smoothing out moderate to deep wrinkles, providing greater wrinkle reduction. The Minor version addresses mild to moderate skin discolorations. Using high electricity, it can hurt so anesthesia is a must.

Dr. Regina Llorin, my dermatologist from the Belo Medical group, suggests an hour of topical anesthesia for those with a low pain threshold. Of course, with very bad sagging jowls and severe loose skin, nothing beats the classic facelift.

Problems from menopause

Test subject, Tisha, a 60-year-old domestic goddess, has had a problem with pigmentation outburst from the time she hit her 50s due to menopause. When she was in her late 50s, she noticed the sudden sagging of her jawline and cheeks despite staying away from the sun and following a strict skin care regimen.

Based on Dr. Mulholland's lecture, she has to have a two-step combination treatment of the Aurora for her pigmentation and the Polaris for her sagging skin and deep lines. She also has a low tolerance for pain and most of the lines are around her eyes and lips.

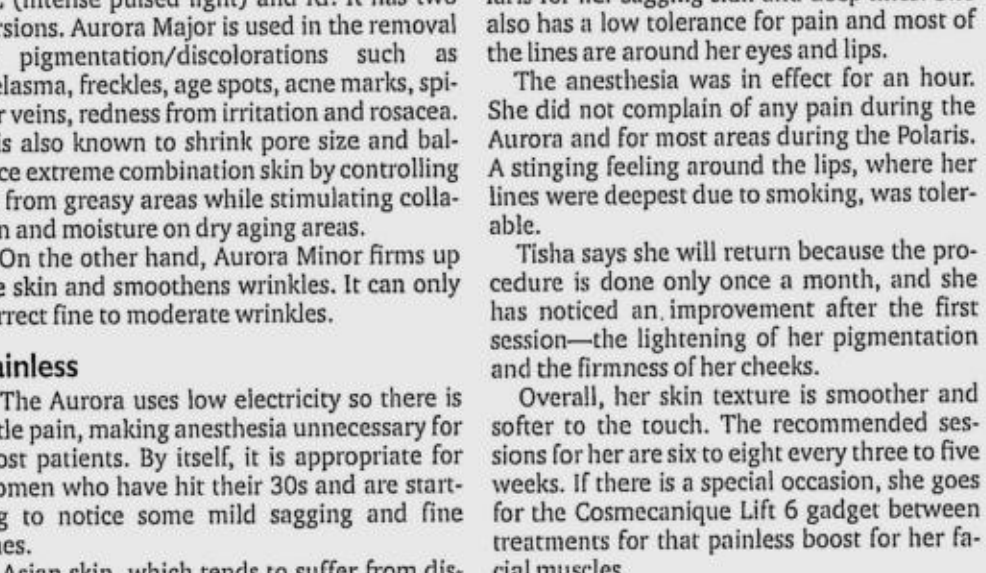
The anesthesia was in effect for an hour. She did not complain of any pain during the Aurora and for most areas during the Polaris. A stinging feeling around the lips, where her lines were deepest due to smoking, was tolerable.

Tisha says she will return because the procedure is done only once a month, and she has noticed an improvement after the first session—the lightening of her pigmentation and the firmness of her cheeks.

Overall, her skin texture is smoother and softer to the touch. The recommended sessions for her are six to eight every three to five weeks. If there is a special occasion, she goes for the Cosmecanique Lift 6 gadget between treatments for that painless boost for her facial muscles.

Aurora can be sufficient for those who are 45 and under with good skin quality/care. Polaris is always best when preceded by IPL or Aurora to even out the skin tone. What is the use of firm skin when you have blotches and maps all over the face? People always notice the discoloration first.

For inquiries regarding the Aurora and Polaris, call 8442939. Both machines are available at Belo Medical Center, Rustan's Makati.



Do-it-yourself hair coloring

IF you are embarrassed by your gray hair, you can now hide them yourself with age-defying colorants from Bellady Decoré by Wella.

Natural shades from light brown to black penetrate each strand evenly, covering even the most resistant grays from roots to tips for an intensive and lasting color full of shine.

Bellady Decoré entails a simple, three-step process for convenient home application—you can color, rinse and condition in less than one hour.

The product boasts of a "color and care" system for optimum coloration without damaging effects. It also offers an improved conditioner that combines the nourishing properties of Almond Extracts, D-Panthenol and Vitamin E to keep hair smooth and healthy while enhancing shine.

Bellady Decoré by Wella is available in leading department stores, health and beauty shops, drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

It is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp., tel. 8909703.

URBAN Species by Cherry Reyes of Essensuals Toni & Guy

BED HEADS. From top left: Danny Katalbas (Emphasis) interprets Global Ethnicity; Cherry Reyes (Essensuals Toni & Guy) with Urban Species; David Charlton with Athletica; and Drea Zulueta (Piandré) with Metropolitan. Foreground, from left: Stefan Wilczynski (Basement) with Rock 'n' Roll Royalty; Pin Antonio (Salon de Manila) with Esthetica; and Kenti Tam (Picasso) with Orientalia

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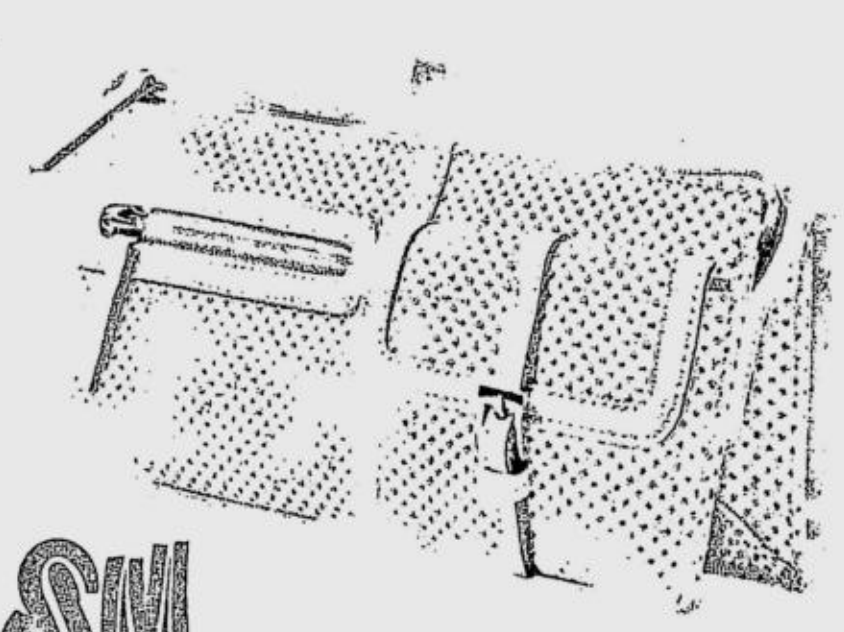

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That fresh-out-of-bed glam look

From page D1

Our gels and styling aids have different intensities and textures."

The Bed Head range was actually developed "by a hairdresser for hairdressers," says Drea Zulueta, creative director of the Piandré salon chain. She is referring to celebrity hairdresser Anthony Mascolo, who first spawned Bed Head's most popular product, the Bed Head Stick, in 1988.

Very colorful and attractively packaged Bed Head bottles and jars have become key in the design of Piandré's Studio Salon, where Zulueta is principal stylist.

"It's like going to a doctor, you need a prescription for a specific condition," Zulueta explains. She adds that with proper coaching from your stylist, the products are actually easy to use.

"Even the best haircut in the world still takes a little bit of work to have it looking really great," notes David Charlton of David's Salon in a statement. "As a hairdresser, it makes it easy for me to pass this on to our clients because I know I'm giving them a great product. It looks good and has great results. It just makes my job so much easier."

Style possibilities

For stylists who like to play around shapes and textures, like Pin Antonio of Salon de Manila, Bed Head is key in helping them explain the cut. "It enhances my craft. It's glamorous, versatile, playful.

"It brings out the best in my haircut," asserts Cherry Reyes of Essensuals Toni & Guy, and names Head Rush, Superstar, Hard to Get, Mastermind and Manipulator among her favorites.

METROPOLITAN by Drea Zulueta of Piandré Salon

ROCK 'n' Roll Royalty by Stefan Wilczynski of Basement Salon

In the past three years that the hair care and styling line has been in the country, it has already earned a following, largely through the advice of hairdressers. Bed Head comes with a warning that says "you must have a sense of humor" to use their products. And Antonio, Charlton, Reyes and Zulueta were among the seven stylists who lent their "sense of humor" at the recent relaunch of Bed Head at the Makati Shangri-La's Red.

The stylists demonstrated the style possibilities with Bed Head—from the simply playful to the gravity-defying and downright outré. Rounding out the roster were Danny Katalbas of Emphasis Salon, Kenti Tam of Picasso Salon and Stefan Wilczynski of Basement Salon.

"It's a fun range," Lucero says. "Our entire menu of hair products are geared toward a stylized look without looking fixed." For the style-shy who just wants healthier hair, "we have shampoos and conditioners for specific hair types and needs," she adds.

Bed Head products cost from P790 for the shampoos and conditioners, and up to P1,390 for the styling aids.

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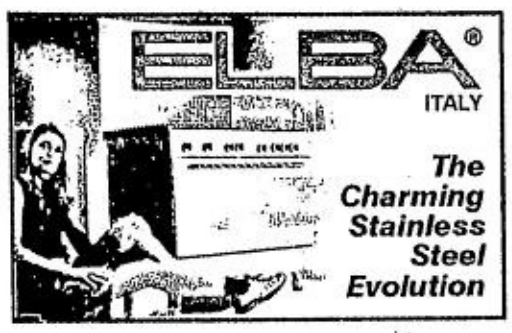

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004

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Your waistline defines your generation

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

TELL me where your waistline is and I'll tell you what generation you belong to—Gen Y, Gen X, yuppie, baby boomer or even beyond. (Or what stage of South Beach diet you're in.)

Wrapping up the 2005 Paris collections last week, Women's Wear Daily (WWD) wrote an interesting observation about the times: "Waistlines have replaced hemlines as the great divider of, generations... Young consumers weaned on low-rise jeans see high waistlines as the epitome of nerdiness..."

It continued to say that men and women—consumers in general, especially those 30 and above—are highly divided in their choices, whether low- or high-rise, and pants designers and manufacturers are trying to decipher the market's preferences and comfort zones.

From the '50s onward, hemlines were the consuming issue, with the fashion collections using them as the defining design statement of each fashion season, whether it was mini or micro mini, mid-calf, knee-length or midi. The fall and rise of the hemline were even co-related to the economic index through the decades.

However, apparently, today, hemline has become a non-issue. Unless you wear your skirt micro-mini-short, people hardly notice how low or high you wear your skirt. It's been accepted and obvious for quite some time now that women have choices when it comes to hemlines, and that there's no longer a uniform length. You can go knee-length today, mid-calf tomorrow, or if you're adventurous enough like **Lulu Tan-Gan**, wear it mid-thigh. The same holds true for pants—capri, baggy-or-boot-legged-long or pedal-pusher-short. (Baggy trousers, by the way, are the thing again.)

Waistlines, however, are the fashion flashpoint to watch. Since **Tom Ford** declared that the hips were the new erogenous zone and proceeded to pull down to the hips women's skirts and pants, navel-flashing has become the vogue. For both guys and girls.

For instance, many fashion seasons ago, when I bought pants for my two gentleman sons, I'd always get a jolt telling the salesperson that I'm looking for a size 34-38, as my boys have directed me to get—indicating not their waist but their hips. There was even a time when my other son wore his pants way way down to the hips, at 40, so that honestly I never knew how he managed to keep it up, even with that belt.

Low-rise is to the kids today what mini was to ours. It has defined today's generation. And it's not going away, not even after this year's collections brought the pants back up to the waist. The natural-waist look prevailed in the collections in New York, Milan and Paris this spring. However, fashion and trade experts interviewed by WWD said they doubt if the high-waist or natural-waist look would go mainstream this year. The market, they say, including even the thirtysomething crowd, still wants its pants to straddle the hips, more than the waist.

Such consumer behavior has left the pants manufacturers with no choice but to offer options to the consumer. Interestingly, pants lines are offering as many as four "rises"—the low, the medium-high, the high to the natural waist or from the belly button to 3½ inches below.

This is quite interesting, for never in contemporary fashion have we been measuring the distance to and from the belly button—in inches. According to WWD, the pants makers simply want to reach the entire market out there, from the so-called "hip chicks" to the "soccer moms." And more often than not, the soccer moms want to be hip themselves.

This proves what we've been saying all along—the best way to define the market, especially the style or fashion market, is by its lifestyle, not so much by its biological age. This is because nothing bars today's women and men from trying out styles; they can go as far as their courage—or cowardice—will take them.

A Florence (Italy) retailer divides the waistline into three options—classic, modern (mid-rise) and contemporary. She told WWD: "In the past year, customers have been totally confused, asking us where their waistline is. We're figuring it out for them before they go in the dressing room."

WWD tags this the "Great Waist Debate." To know which side you're on, just give your belly button a long hard look, and ask yourself, is it the right button or not?

2,000-strong audience for Pitoy

Last Monday, **Pitoy Moreno** had just come from a lunch hosted by **Imelda Cojuangco** (who, by the way, still hasn't read that story) for **Bea Zobel** and **Mercy Tuason**, and sighed to us over the phone—*"Pagod na pagod na ako."*

He could have fooled us. Pitoy is immune to burnout. He's a few days away from his two-night show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (Oct. 26 and 27), which is both a tribute to Pitoy and fundraiser for CCP which, you must admit, is showing wear and tear, quite literally.

Ms Cojuangco chairs the first night, and the trio of **Tingting Cojuangco**, **Vicky Cuisia** and **Marissa Concepcion** takes over the second night. Both nights are expecting a crowd of 1,000 each, with tickets going for P4,000 and P5,000 a piece.

Nobody sells tickets to fashion shows anymore; it's that hard to come by cash. But not Pitoy and his vast network. They are selling tickets to his shows to raise funds. They're going beyond corporate sponsorship, which is how today's shows are funded.

Pitoy is hands-on with the production, with **Floy Quintos** directing, yet he half-complains and half-declares that he's tired.

For somebody who's tired, he indeed has his schedule full the rest of the year. After CCP, he has a show of Philippine costumes for the Harvard alumni reunion at Shangri-La, and on Nov. 26, he's helping bosom friend, Dr. **Greg Alvior**, by mounting another benefit show for Philippine General Hospital.

Talking about what it takes to stage a show these days, he says, "I don't have that kind of money. *Naghihirap na 'ko.*" He's not credible.

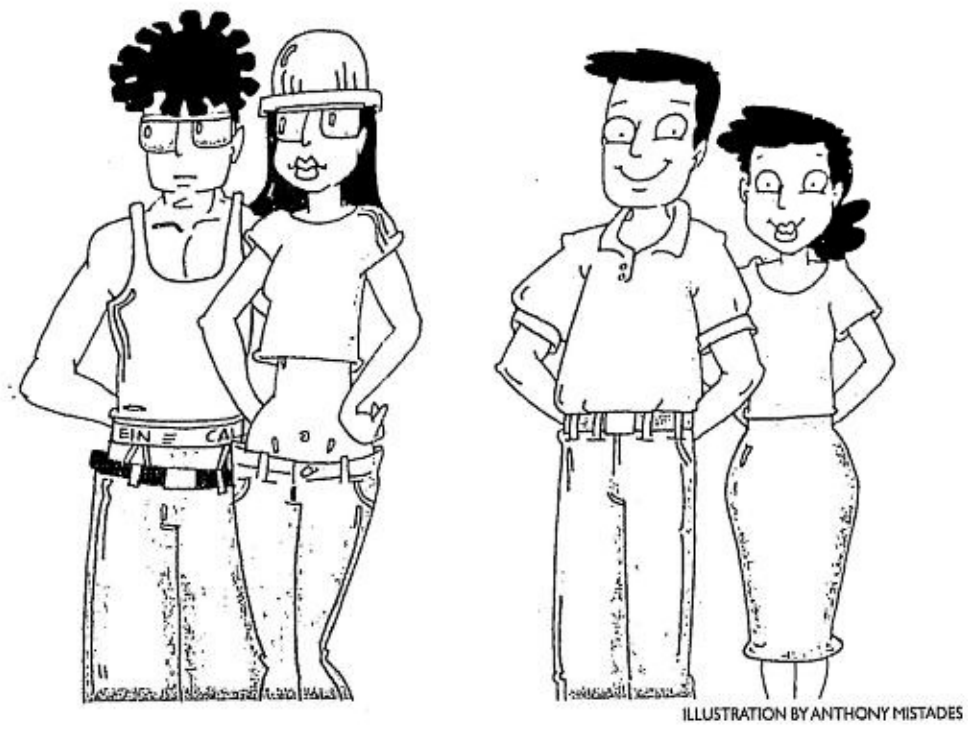
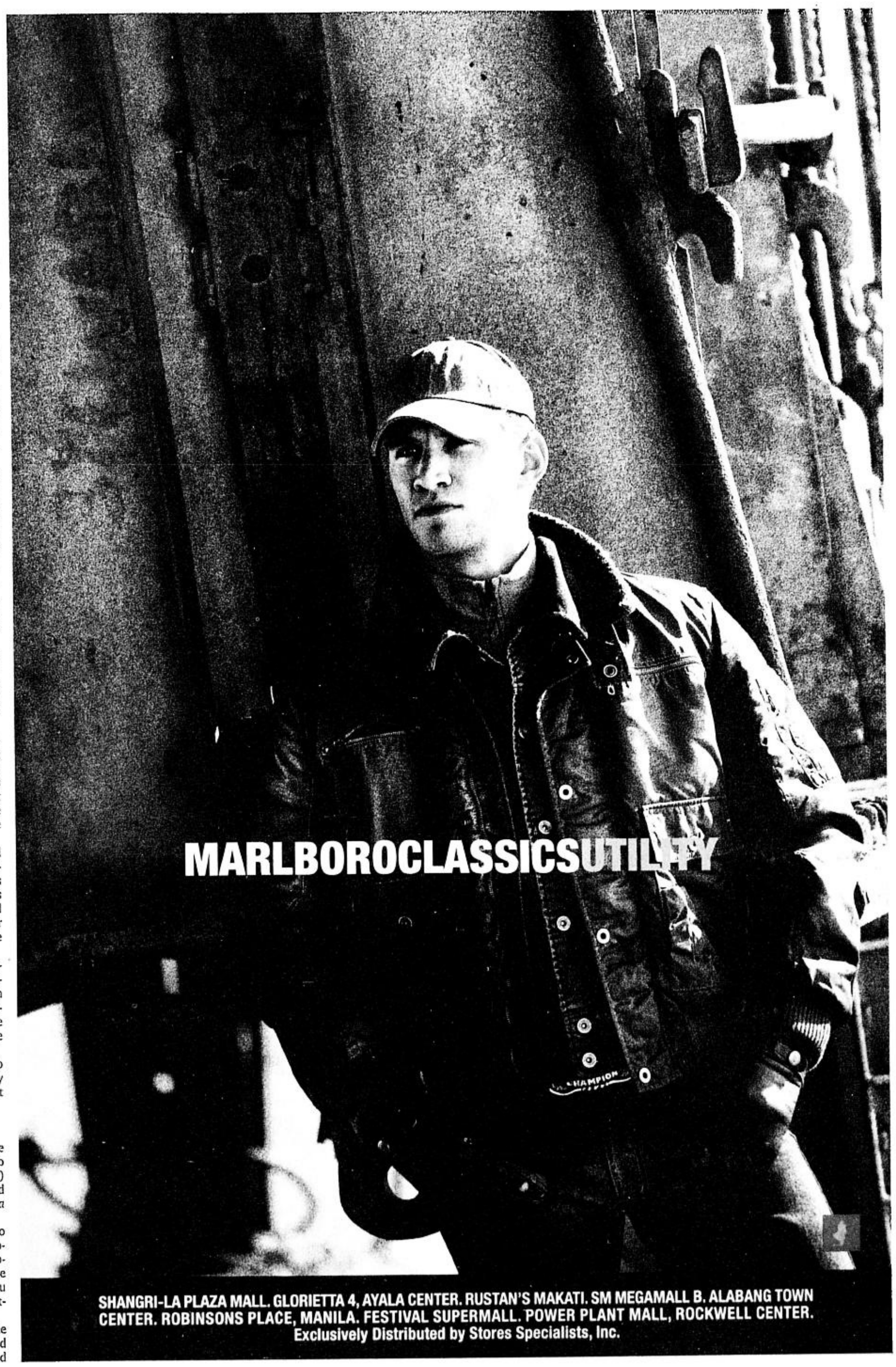
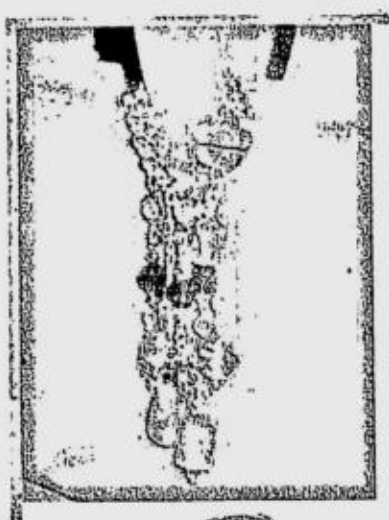


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

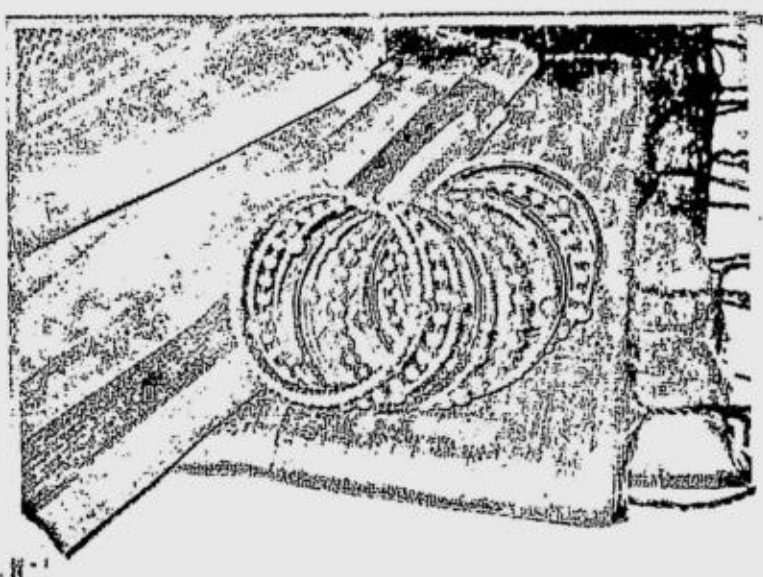
Time was when hemlines were the issue. Now, it's whether you're low-rise or high-rise

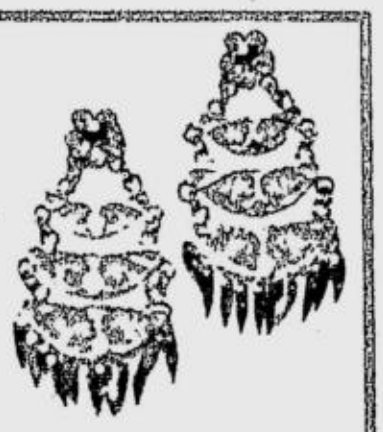




Classic with a twist

AUDREY Hepburn and Jackie O. always wore their LBDs in a classic manner, more often than not matched with pearls and Sabrina-heeled shoes. To add a bit of spice, wear yours with a brightly colored bag, eye-catching bag charms and multi-colored shoes. Fuchsia bag and printed kitten-heeled slingbacks from Lila Almario in Glorietta 4 and Power Plant Mall; bag charms from the Silver Box, opening on Nov. 15 in Glorietta 3 or to order from Eleanor, 0917-5266266





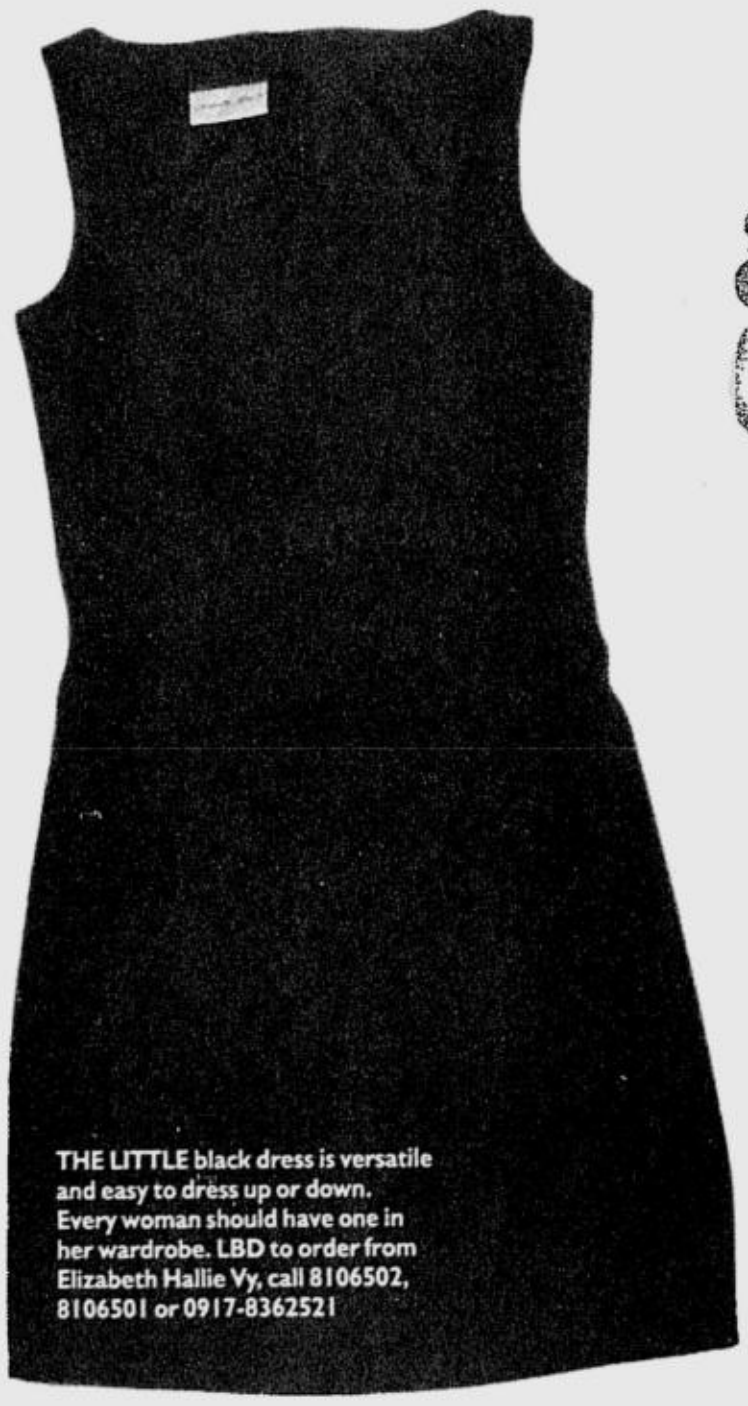
Ethnic flair

CREATE a bit of mystery and drama by matching your LBD with exotic, ethnic accessories. A pair of Khussa shoes from Pakistan can help establish the look. Finish off with exotic dangling earrings or a multi-strand copper-colored cuff and a richly hued shawl. Shoes from Elizabeth Hallie Vy; vintage earrings from India; multi-strand cuff from Mimi Cosmetics in Power Plant Mall; shawl from Lila Almario

All hail the little black dress

'You can wear black at any time. You can wear it at any age. You may wear it on almost any occasion. A little black frock is essential to a woman's wardrobe'

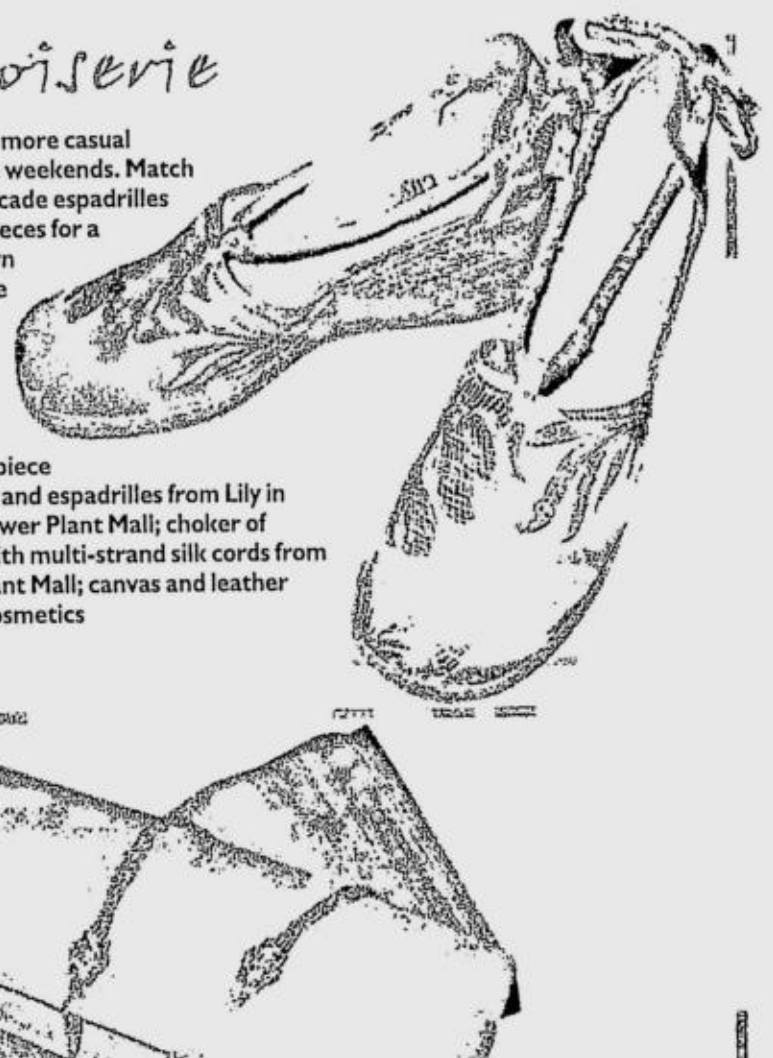
–Christian Dior

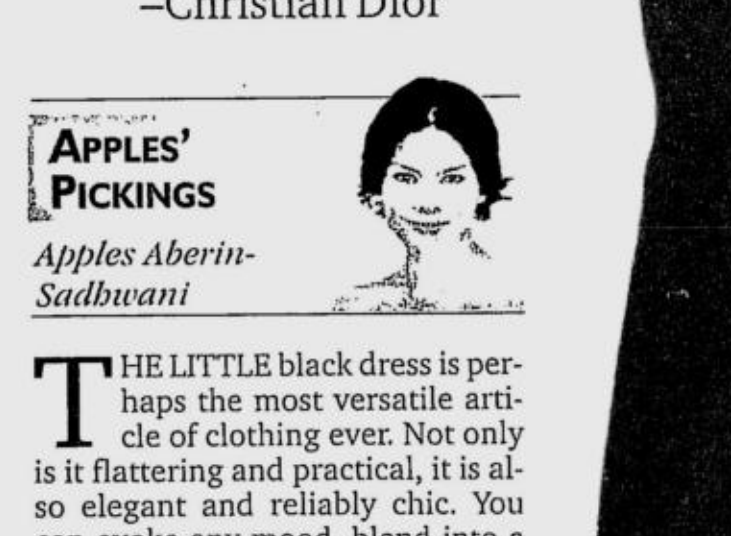


THE LITTLE black dress is versatile and easy to dress up or down. Every woman should have one in her wardrobe. LBD to order from Elizabeth Hallie Vy, call 8106502, 8106501 or 0917-8362521

Chinoiserie

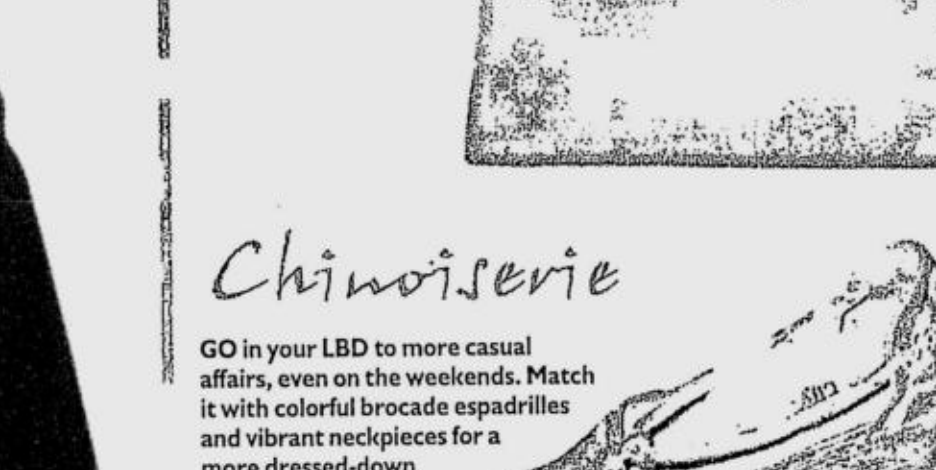
GO in your LBD to more casual affairs, even on the weekends. Match it with colorful brocade espadrilles and vibrant neckpieces for a more dressed-down but still fashionable appearance. A large weekend tote would be the perfect match for these multi-hued accessories. Neckpiece with jade pendant and espadrilles from Lily in Glorietta 4 and Power Plant Mall; choker of assorted stones with multi-strand silk cords from Solea in Power Plant Mall; canvas and leather tote from Mimi Cosmetics





Corporate chic

THE LBD can look professional when matched with a chic jacket, pumps and a structured handbag. Black is a very powerful color and can in fact communicate confidence, ability and competence in the workplace. Jacket and bag from Tyler in Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall and Rustan's Tower; brooch from Mimi Cosmetics; shoes from Solea



Evening glam

THE LBD is sexy, dramatic and perfect for most evening affairs. You can play the bombshell by matching it with sky-high stilettos, heavy makeup and a strong, musky fragrance. Or you can opt to play demure and lady-like by matching your LBD with satin kitten-heel mules, a feminine purse, a pretty yet affordable neckpiece and a delicate shawl. Mules, purse and shawl from Lila Almario; silver necklace with pearls from the Silver Box

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE LITTLE black dress is perhaps the most versatile article of clothing ever. Not only is it flattering and practical, it is also elegant and reliably chic. You can evoke any mood, blend into a crowd or make a statement with it —with help, of course, from your choice of accessories.

Maximize the use of your LBD by using various accessories to dress it up or down, set the mood or achieve a particular look. The possibilities are endless, but jumpstart your creativity with these examples.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

GRAMMY Award-winning female solo artist Nelly Furtado highlights her fresh and funky fashion taste with Fornarina apparel.

European fashion brand to open in new QC mall

EUROPE'S top fashion brand, Fornarina, will soon open its signature shop in the Philippines at Araneta Center's latest landmark property development, the Gateway Mall.

Gianfranco Fornari founded Fornarina in 1947 in Italy. It captured the fashion world's attention in the '80s with its colorful cork wedges and clogs. Now under the founder's son, Lino Fornari, the brand has become a favorite among young world celebrities, among them Britney Spears, the Olsen twins, Nelly Furtado and Hillary Duff, among others. Last year, Fornari SpA, Fornarina's mother company, reported sales of $115 million.

"Fornarina is about lifestyle. It's for women who have fun playing and dressing a bit younger than they really are, mixing glamour, femininity and sports," says Lino Fornari. The brand's core target has expanded from the mid-teens to those in their mid-20s.

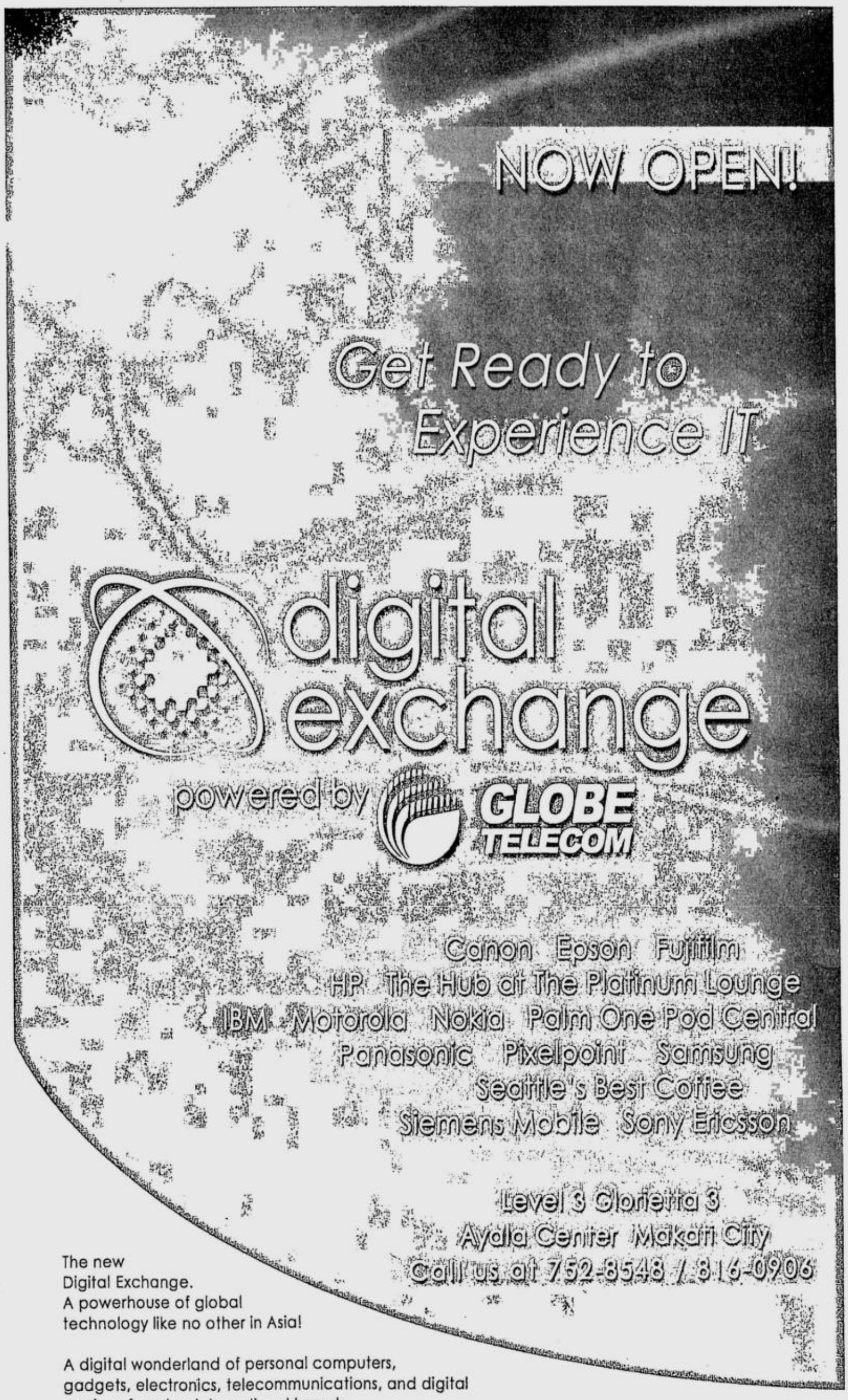
The Gateway Mall, the first major leg of Araneta Center's Master Development Plan, aims to transform the Center into a "virtual city within a city." It is the only mall that will link the LRT2 and MRT3 for unparalleled access, and is directly connected to the Mecca of Philippine sports and entertainment, Araneta Coliseum, which hosts over 200 shows a year.

The Gateway Mall will house the tropical-theme indoor floating garden known as the Oasis, the five-level Gourmet Tower featuring 30 of the best international and local casual and elegant dining restaurants, and a 10-screen Cineplex named "Times Square," which will feature state-of-the-art cinema equipment and facilities.

Fornarina will be joining anchor tenant Rustan's Department Store, the country's premiere upmarket shopping destination, plus several other unique stores in making Gateway Mall—as its tagline puts it—"like no other mall in the world."

YOUNG TV/movie idol and singer Hillary Duff looks absolutely pretty in pink in a casual getup from Fornarina.

TEEN sensations Mary Kate and Ashley, more popularly known as the Olsen twins, complement their identical drop-dead gorgeous looks with equally lovely Fornarina wear.



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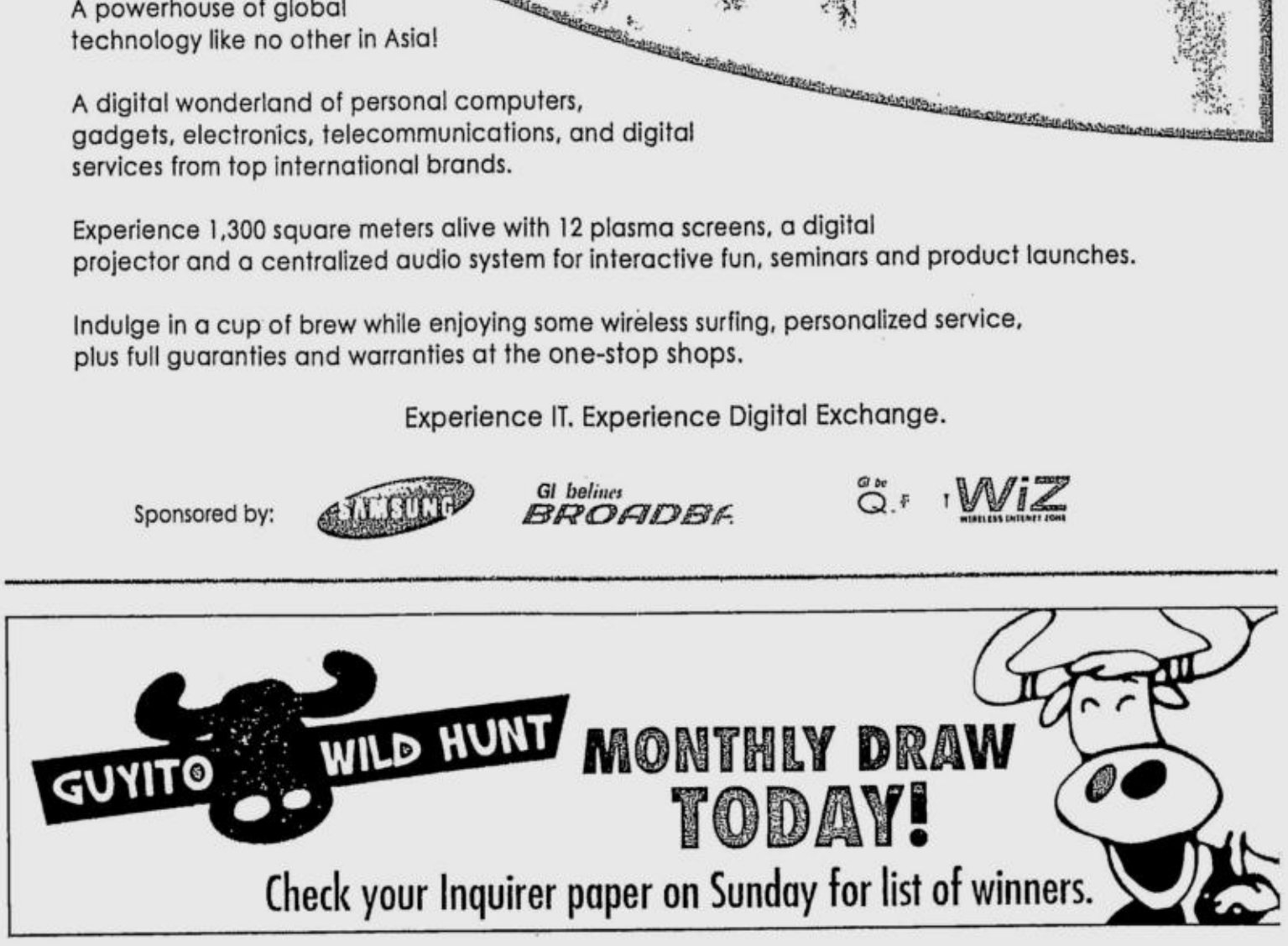


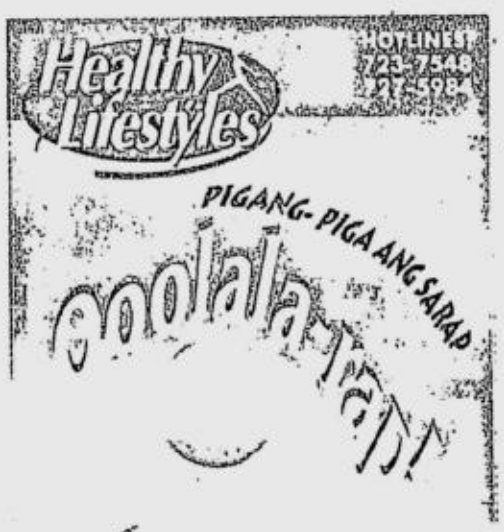
Makati commercial center pioneer gets makeover

THE NEW SM Makati store officially opens today.

One of the pioneers in what is now known as the Ayala Center, the new store was designed to be a modern flagship establishment catering to urban customers.

Like most SM stores, it will have everything for everyone. It will also be a fashion store for women.

The façade of the 70,000-sq-m flagship store was designed by an American architectural firm. Its interiors were conceptualized by a United States-based international consulting firm specializing in retail branding and store design.



ADDED ATTRACTION. Elegantly arranged focal display highlights the merchandise.

Graphics used in the store were designed to be bold, clear and modern but at the same time looking friendly and inviting. The store incorporated luxe details like natural-stone flooring and rich wood details.

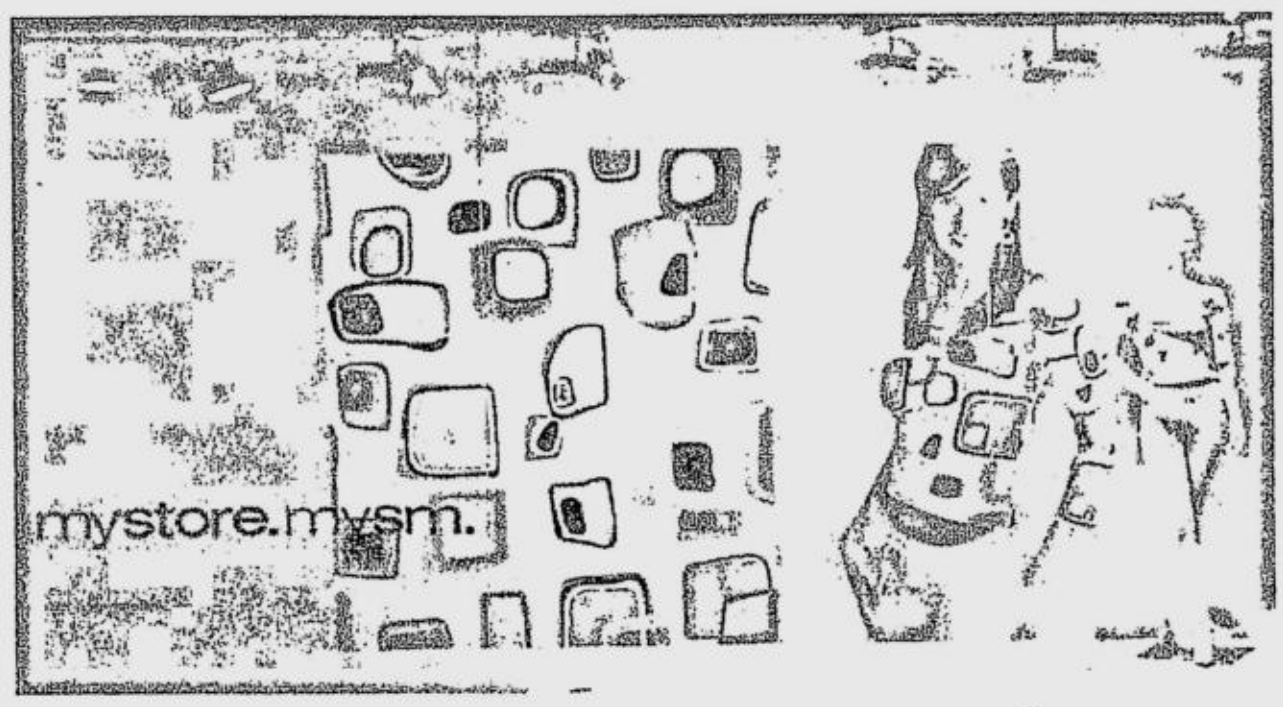
Mondrian-like patterns are a dominant motif in the architecture and fixtures.

A grand concourse to the MRT divides the store into two wings—the East is the fashion area while the West has the Home, Shoes and Bags, and Children's Sections, among others. Merchandise hotspots were put in the middle of the aisles.

The West wing, which includes the supermarket, was opened earlier this year. Other features of the new SM are the appliance center, Ace Hardware, Surplus Shop, Watsons and Toy Kingdom.

SM Makati is at the Ayala Center in Makati.

AN UPSCALE and upbeat SM Makati



WHAT'S NEW? Windows play a big role in the new store.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

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Are the stars out tonight?

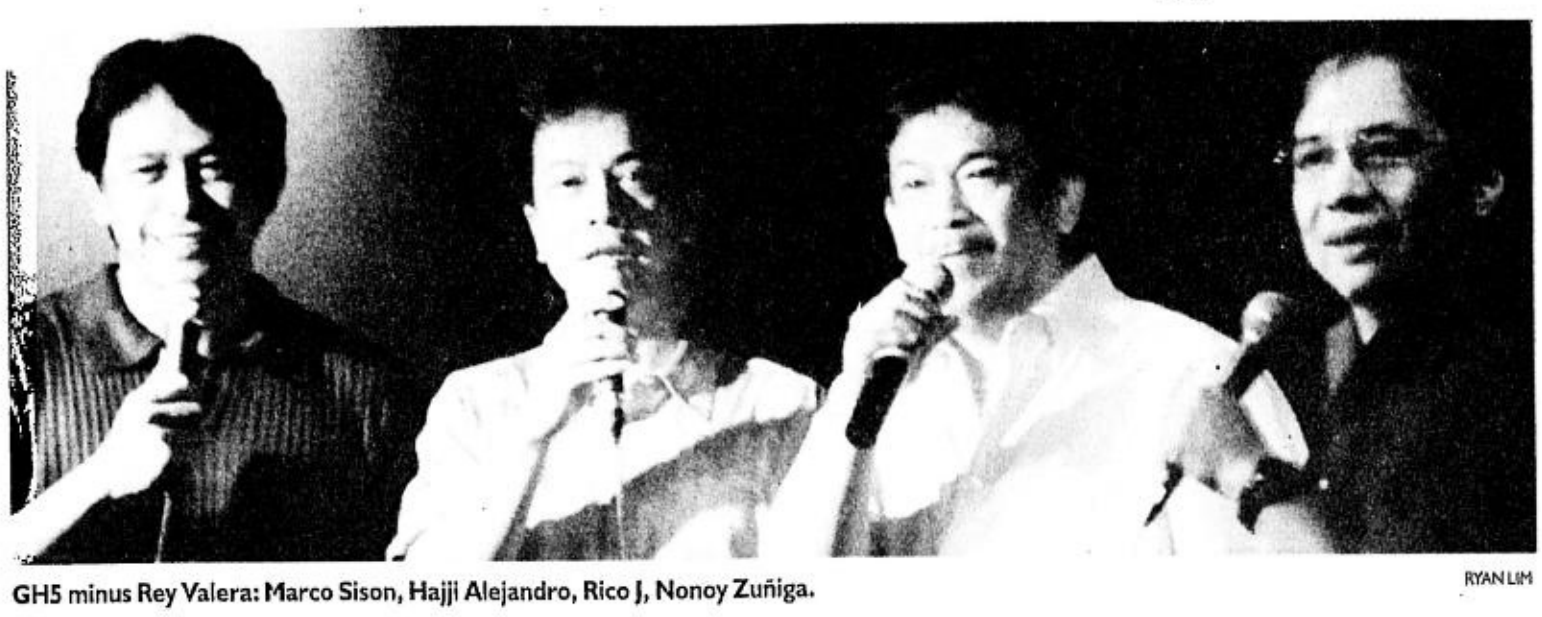
By Linda B. Bolido

WHEN you are Norma Japitana, journalist and talent manager, a birthday celebration can never be an amateur singing hour with guests taking turns at the karaoke.

What you do get is a mini-concert that everyone else would pay top money for. In fact, a lot of people phoned Coriks, the bistro owned by Rico J. Puno where the party was held, wanting to gate-crash. After all, how often can one count on Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Nonoy Zuñiga and Marco Sison performing in one evening? Rey Valera, the fifth member of their group GH5 (Greatest Hits 5), was indisposed.

Award-winning actor Cesar Montano, fresh from directing/producing "Panaghoy sa Suba" (or "Cry of the River," an official entry in the fothcoming Metro Manila Film Festival), subbed for Valera in the quintet's rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday To You." Montano, who once worked as a folk singer, also did a solo number that impressed the exacting critic/director Behn Cervantes.

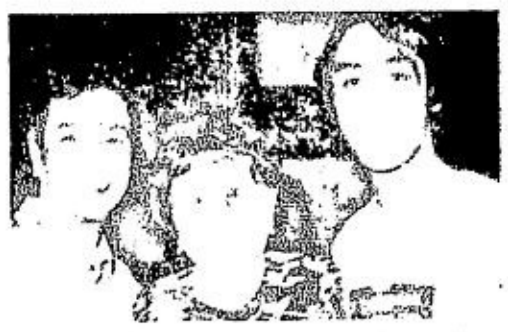
Puno, Sison and Montano are all long-time talents in Japitana's stable, and she acts as GH5's agent for foreign performances.



GH5 minus Rey Valera: Marco Sison, Hajji Alejandro, Rico J, Nonoy Zuñiga. RYAN LIM

IN the tradition of great love teams, Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz sing a duet.

FORMER Vice President Teofisto Guingona



BIRTHDAY girl Norma J with Hajji and Ali Alejandro

True OPM

The small audience—mainly Norma J's friends and relatives and a few paying patrons who managed to squeeze in—enthusiastically applauded each number that transported them back to the time OPM (original Pilipino music) was a badge of quality proudly worn.

Musical director Gerry Matias was certainly in his element, too, no doubt glad to be accompanying genuine talents.

Puno's eldest child, Tosca, proved she was her father's daughter, singing with confidence despite having to follow the formidable performers on stage. Alejandro's son Ali dropped in and took a photo op with his dad and the celebrator.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, looking glad to be distanced from government, stayed long enough to finish a glass of iced tea. Lollie Mara, erstwhile head of Radio-Television Malacañang, also seemed relaxed and happy to resume her acting career.

Bodies beautiful

Montano's wife, Sunshine Cruz, gave birth to her second child only a month ago, but there she was, looking as svelte as when she was still active in the movies. The other women in the room, many of whom were battling middle-age spread, could only sigh in frustration. Evangeline Pascual, now a radio talk show host and magazine columnist, did not look far removed, either, from the form that won her a beauty title.

Visiting Nieves Bates, owner of the Candid recording company in London, was obviously pleased by the impromptu show.

For a bit of theater: Cervantes could not resist staging a little "scene." He, Mara and this writer went up the stage while Sison did a solo number, to wipe the sweat off the singer's brow and kiss him the way true groupies would.

The party broke up at about 4 a.m. By then it had turned into karaoke singing, after all, but still not quite the usual. How could it be, with Montano and Cruz crooning to one another?

ALL together now, with a lot of theatrics

No, you may not call 'em just a 'boy band'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

DON'T call them run-of-the-mill.

The boy band 8th of March recently released their debut album, "By the Way ... I Love You Still," under Ivory/Octave Records. The title track has become pop music station staple, and its music video is shown in steady rotation over music channel Myx.

Mostly fresh college graduates in their early 20s, the guys have performed with such concert headliners as Regine, Nina, and Keith Martin. They also won an Awit Award last year, for Best Performance by a New Group.

Formed in 2003, specifically on—you got it—the eighth of March, the young group seeks to shed the burdensome tag attached to boy bands. After all, the four members were picked from numerous applicants who had turned up for the auditions. The quartet soon became among the busiest performers in the country. Coming from different musical backgrounds, they found a new and powerful chemistry.

Diff'rent folks

"Octave Records wanted each member's individuality to flourish, the better to cater to the widest market," says Cholo, a Speech Communications graduate and former theater actor. "That's why we were chosen, four people who didn't know one another. We would be able to sing different types of songs."

Renowned lyricist Edith Gallardo—who has written songs for Aiza Seguerra, Jaya, and The Company—sat down with 8th of March and helped out on several tracks. Recounts Owen, a Mass Com graduate: "It's not like there were songs already [prepared]. First we chatted. She asked for stories about our lives and she got input from those. So we didn't write the songs, but from our ideas she came up with great stories."

The guys say they appreciate all the help, and can't wait to write their own material for the next album.

Meanwhile, Fort, the group's ex-rock musician and a graduating Marketing student, considers himself lucky that he was allowed to pen a portion of the funky dance track titled, a tad vainly, "8th of March."

"I used my own words for the rap part," he says.

Validation

Bruce, a Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate and the most soft-spoken of the four, declares that music is his life, and that the bond with his band mates is therefore a valuable one. "I hope we'll become even better at our craft, and leave a mark," he says. "We want to make more albums. It's a good sign that 'By The Way...' is very *kanta*-ble [singable]."

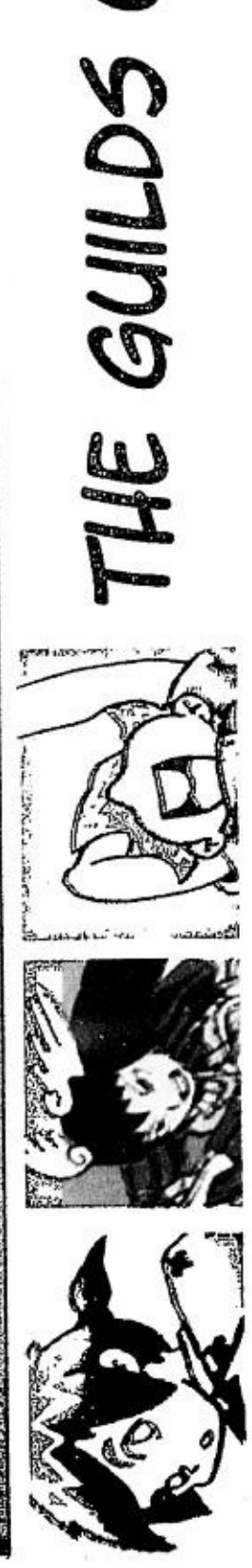
According to Owen, 8th of March finds validation in working with other singers. "[It's] an affirmation that we're also [professionals]. We keep doing our best to prove that we're not just a *pa*-cute boy band."

"We met Keith Martin when we performed at Ratsky's," recalls Cholo. "We invited him onstage and he sang 'Because of You' with us. I have pictures!"

The guys' current schedule requires them to do mall shows and gigs in small venues, giving them a taste of requisite drawbacks. "We don't get enough sleep," says Cholo. "The repertoire keeps getting bigger," adds Fort. "It's hard to memorize [songs] when you lack sleep."

They all agree that these come with the territory, as do the perks. Cholo notes: "We get to travel for free. We see places we never thought we would. If you're really into your work, you will never get tired."

HAVE FOUND A NEW HOME



THE GUILDS OF MIDGARD

See'em all!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

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ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 CELLULAR	1 CELLULAR	1 SHARK TALE	5 THE DOLL MASTER	THX 1 WHITE CHICKS	1 THE PUNISHER
2 WHITE CHICKS	2 WHITE CHICKS	2 LADDER 49	6 WHITE CHICKS	THX 2 CELLULAR	2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS		THX 3 CELLULAR	7 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 TWISTED
4 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	3 THE DOLL MASTER	4 STEAL		4 LADDER 49	4 SHARK TALE
5 SHARK TALE	4 LADDER 49	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		THX 5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
		1 LADDER 49			
		2 WHITE CHICKS			

At the Activity Center

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GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES FEATURING TAKE ONE October 22, 7:00pm to 10:00pm	SPANISH FESTIVAL: FLAMENCO JAZZ October 22, Greenbelt 3 Park

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- Run Lola Run "Lola rennt"

Oct 24 7:30pm
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2 WIMBLEDON
11:25 FS/ 11:55 MF/ 2:05/ 4:15/ 6:25/ 8:35/ 10:15 LFS/ 10:45 LMF/ 12:25 END

MTRCB Rating: PG13 **BOURNE SUPREMACY**
SM Southmall Cinema 2 · SM Megamall Cinema 6 · SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5 · SM City North EDSA Cinema 1 · SM City Fairview Cinema 11 · SM City Manila Cinema 6

FAHRENHEIT 9/11 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
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OPEN WATER MTRCB RATING. PG 13
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MTRCB Rating: R 13 **THE PUNISHER**
SM City Fairview Cinema 7 · SM Tutuban Cinema 7 · SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 2 · SM City Southmall Cinema 8 · SM City Manila Cinema 1 · SM City North Edsa Cinema 5 · SM Megamall Cinema 9

RAISING HELEN MTRCB Rating: PG
SM City Manila Cinema 8 · SM North Edsa Cinema 4 · SM Southmall Cinema 5 · SM Megamall Cinema 11 · SM City Fairview Cinema 10 · SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4

MTRCB Rating: R13 **RESIDENT EVIL**
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SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM City Manila Cinema 2 · SM City North Edsa Cinema 2 · SM City Bicutan Cinema 3 · SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7 · SM City Southmall Cinema 4 · SM City Tutuban Cinema 4 · SM Sucat Cinema 2 · SM Megamall Cinema 3 · SM City Fairview Cinema 8

SECRET WINDOW MTRCB Rating: R13
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SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **WIMBLEDON**
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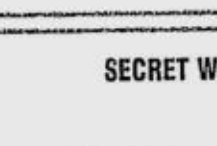
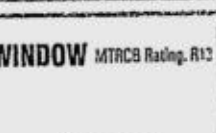

Hush — 2:00pm


Waterboys — 5:00pm

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JUDE LAW

From LA to London

Hey, Jude, 'bye

LONDON—British actor Jude Law attacked the tabloid press and said newspaper editors should realize that "made up" stories could be very hurtful. While enjoying his acting success in films such as "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and the title role in the upcoming remake "Alfie," London-born Law said living in a country as small as Britain made him feel scrutinized. He urged the paparazzi to give him and his partner Sienna Miller more space.

Depp, Winslet in UK

LONDON—Throngs of screaming girls braved a chilly London night recently to get a glimpse of American actor Johnny Depp as he arrived at the UK premiere of the film "Finding Neverland." Depp was greeted by hundreds of squealing young women, some crying, as they clamored for an autograph of the Hollywood heartthrob at Leicester Square in central London. His co-star Kate Winslet was also present.

'Shark' chews up rival

LOS ANGELES—In a surprise at the North American weekend box office, the fishy gangsters of reigning champion "Shark Tale" easily dispatched the frisky marionettes of the much-hyped satire "Team America: World Police." According to studio estimates issued on Sunday, DreamWorks' "Shark Tale" came on top for a third consecutive weekend with $22.1 million for the three days, beginning Oct. 15. The total for the $70 million-budgeted cartoon rose to $118.8 million.

Sexy Jolie

LOS ANGELES—Angelina Jolie, who manages to mesmerize men—and fight off robot invaders—with just one eye in her latest movie, has been named the "sexiest woman alive" in the latest edition of Esquire magazine. Jolie, featured as the alluring, courageous fighter pilot with an eye patch in "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow," was the top pick of the magazine's editors and mostly male readers to grace the cover of Esquire's annual 'Women We Love' issue.

Reuters

As simple as making hot sauce

SALSA is literally "sauce." It is also a hot dance, possibly the hottest of its kind, lodged in the very heart of Cuban culture, a beat that melds music and mayhem.

It's quite a story, how the dance got the name. When salsa was first being played as a more frenzied form of mambo music—as with Jimmy Sabater's tune "Salsa y Bembé"—vocalist Cheo Filiciano told his main squeeze to add some *salsa* to the *bembé* while she danced. In effect, to spice it up. There it all began, pounding percussion with swinging hips, a perfect recipe for painting the town.

Getting started on the *salsa* is as simple as making the sauce.

Ingredients: hot outfit, sturdy shoes, flexible partner, CD played at maximum volume, or a live band, why not? Also passion, daring, energy and maybe three glasses of Margarita.

Blend outfit and shoes well; colors should be vibrant. Make sure to pick pieces that reflect your attitude as a dancer. Sustain passion and daring with energy.

With friends, head for salsa hot spots:

POUNDING percussion, swinging hips: perfect ingredients for a night out.

DreamBar, ground floor, 6750 Ayala Avenue, on Oct. 14; Café Havana in Malate, 1903 M. Adriatico cor Remedios St., on Oct. 15 and 20; Cafe Havana in Greenbelt, Oct. 28; back in DreamBar, Nov. 11 and 18; back in Havana, Malate, Nov. 19; Havana Greenbelt, Nov. 24; DreamBar, Nov. 25 and Dec. 2; Havana Malate, Dec. 3; Havana Greenbelt, Dec. 8; Dreambar, Dec. 9; Havana Malate, Dec. 17.

Back on track with Jackielou

CHOOSING the lesser evil, for celebrity fitness icon Jackielou Blanco, routinely applies to food.

She doesn't deprive herself, she says; in fact, she eats practically anything... in moderation. Fats and sugar are watched more closely than others, to be sure, but vegetables and water might as well be considered her daily indulgences.

"I have breakfast, lunch and dinner, [plus] in-between meals," she says. Her stomach is used to small amounts of food at regular intervals. In fact, she tells people never to force themselves to eat everything on their plates.

The clamor for wellness is the result of people seeking empowerment via their choices, Jackielou notes. "People want to get back on [the health] track," she says. "Even some companies now give their employees the chance to do this in the workplace."

She has a new fitness video, "Working Out With Jackielou 2," in which she treats enthusiasts to advanced routines guaranteed to reduce their bellies and raise their buttocks a la Beyonce.

Anne Luisa E. Villarico

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5 FLYING DAGGERS 12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm
6 SHARK TALE 12:10 pm 2:20 pm 4:30 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm
7 FENG SHUI 11:35 pm 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
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ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
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REMAR	X-MEN 2
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LORES

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Looking for Mr. Pinoy Bossa Nova

PEÑERA was RP's best jazz pianist in the 1980s.

By Jojo M. Gonzales
Contributor

"WHY HIM?"

This was a friend demanding to know why I was working on a film about Bong Peñera. The friend used to edit Jingle Magazine, the Philippines' prime music and chord book publication. "I don't remember much about him that is significant," she added, rolling up her eyes. Suddenly, a spark! "Is he the Bong chosen by the readers of Jingle Magazine as Best Pinoy Jazz Pianist sometime in the 1980s? The same Bong whose Batucada Band was also picked Best Jazz Band?"

Nothing significant?

Among fellow filmmakers working with me, no one knew "Bong Who?" either. Luckily, some of the members of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Committee on Cinema were fans of Peñera's music.

YESTERDAY

Peñera is the Filipino musician-composer who wrote, performed and recorded original bossa nova numbers in the '70s. When I applied for an NCCA grant, all I had in mind was a film that would discuss his distinctive achievement.

But first, to locate him. Initially, even those who recognized the name didn't have a clue as to where the man might be. At this point, the project looked bigger than I cared to believe.

The idea of a Peñera film sprang from a casual late-night talk with radio jock Joey P, whom I visited at Citylite 88.3 FM in January 2003. It was about 11 p.m., on a weekend. A woman called up while Joey P was on board and thanked him for playing "Samba Song." The woman said Peñera songs were hardly played on radio anymore. In the course of the conversation, we asked the questions back and forth every five minutes or so: "Whatever happened to him? Where is he?"

That night, the same questions kept me awake. The very next day, I completed the requirements for an NCCA proposal. Thanks to the cinema committee chaired by Boots Anson Roa, we got the grant.

Hooked on cool

First order of business was to familiarize the crew with the most compelling evidence of the subject's existence: his music. We all went to Joey P's house to listen to vinyl copies of Peñera's first and third album. The goodness flowed like water from a mountain spring—graceful, pure, cool.

So cool, that a female crew member says she now plays the songs in her mind whenever she is stuck in traffic, to make the daily hassle "bearable." To think that this young woman was born after Peñera's peak. The rest of the crew has followed suit. "Bong Who?" has become real to them.

Since that single day of immersion, the film project has taken a life of its own. A buddy got me in touch with a friend of his who could lend cameras and lights. I called for an appointment, having made a list of the things I wished to borrow. After 15 minutes on the phone, it became apparent that the guy didn't have anything I needed. But after that initial letdown, a whole bunch of information came tumbling out of the man like butterflies out of the forest. He just happened to be Peñera's old pal and band mate. That very first group had four members, according to this unexpected find, Bing Villegas—himself, Peñera, and two girls both named Vicki.

Villegas laughingly recalled guesting in "Ariel con Tina," one of the most popular TV shows at the time, and hosts Ariel Ureta and Tina Revilla referring to the group as Vicki Vicki Bing Bong!

More surprises

One night after a shoot, while chilling out with the crew at Joel Torre's Manukan along Gilmore Avenue, I asked the waiter to play our CD, with Peñera's "Samba Song" and "Batucada Sa Calesa." Midway through "Samba Song," beautifully sung in Portuguese by Maria Dulce Da Silva, we heard two middle-aged executive types ask the waiter where the CD was from. When the waiter pointed our way, the two men came over and excitedly told us stories of evenings at Hyatt's Calesa Bar where Bong Peñera and the Batucada Band reigned in the '70s.

Another night, while we waited for Pat Castillo—who did the vocals for "Love Notes," one of Peñera's best-loved songs—at Merck's Bar in Glorietta 3, a band in the alley started playing an unmistakable bossa nova groove. I went closer. A young Pinay in miniskirt sat on a stool singing in Portuguese. Then she segued to "Batucada Sa Calesa." A new band playing Peñera was a rare treat. So we interviewed Eileen Sison, Richie Quirino and the rest of the Guarana Band right there, right after their set.

Yet another friend confessed that she used to call radio stations during the late '70s to request for Peñera songs. She introduced me to a writer who had earlier done a scathing review of a Peñera album. The writer told me he had completely changed his mind about that album.

Brazilian backup

A pleasant surprise was the reaction of the Brazilian envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador Claudio Maria Henrique Do Couto Lyra. I had written a letter requesting him for a referral; I said I wanted to meet a Brazilian national here in the country who could give a background on the samba and the bossa nova. To my surprise, the ambassador himself and First Minister Carlos Augusto Loureiro De Carvalho enthusiastically discussed their personal passion for samba music. More important, Bong Peñera was no stranger to them, and they said they appreciated his music.

Lyra offered to contact Dulce Da Silva, a staff at the Brazilian Embassy in the '70s now based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Da Silva had translated the English-Tagalog "Samba Song" into Portuguese and recorded it in Peñera's first album. Later, a lady diplomat, Myriam Abitam, showed us how to dance the samba.

Needless to say, as our research progressed, we gathered more interesting details. During an interview with former Jingle staffers—editor Ces Rodriguez and members of her music patrol Eric Caruncho, Bill Huang, Mike Jamir, Edwin Sallan, and Tony Maghirang—at the UFO Gallery in San Juan, Caruncho informed us that on an Internet auction site, a record collector in Japan was offering US$10,000 for a vinyl record of Peñera.

At the end of the interview, Jamir and Huang gave us the number of one Johnny Alegre, said to be a Pinoy jazz chronicler.

Cosmic chart

This Johnny person wears *barong* Tagalog to work as "IT guru of one of the most prestigious malls in the country." At night he plays the guitar for the jazz band Affinity. But it blew our minds when he showed us into the conference room of his Makati office. There was a "cosmic chart" showing in painstaking detail the different incarnations of Bong Peñera's bands, including dates and landmark projects, names of band members and their tours of duty. Best of all, he had their current phone numbers.

> The generation that grooved to Bong Peñera's music is still very much around, hidden behind graying hair and business suits

And so we soon made contact with guitarist Edgar Avenir, drummer Jun Viray, vocalist Sandra Lim-Viray and bassist Paul Candelaria, the last batch to play with Peñera before he disappeared from the local scene. Paul lives and plays in Hong Kong, while Edgar, Jun and Sandra continue to make music in the country as the trio JFK, or Just For Kicks.

On the side, happily married couple Jun and Sandra are specialists in made-to-order furniture. Edgar, rightfully called "Kuyang," serves as big brother to younger jazz musicians. JFK still plays Batucada music.

During a spur-of-the-moment trip to Baguio we stumbled upon Cecil Habito of Tam-Awan Artists Village, who advised us to go to St. Louis University and look for a certain Dr. Carlos Medina. She said Medina and Peñera were together at Maryhurst Seminary in Baguio in the '70s. We found Medina, an anthropologist at SLU's Cordillera Research Foundation. He writes books, produces his own music recordings and plays once a week at a popular restaurant. And yes, we found, he played the bossa nova with Peñera's group at Maryhurst.

One visit to an optometrist yielded more than reading glasses. The luminous Dr. Nella Sarabia was business affairs manager for the late Edmond Fortuno, who played the drums in Peñera's third album and at the Calesa Bar gigs. Peñera and Fortuno, or "Bosyo" might seem an odd combination, the latter having been partial to rock. Nell argued that, on the contrary, the two were "natural playmates" because of their love for all kinds of music. Nell then pointed to Gina Montes, who sang with Hotdog and then with Batucada. Montes sang with Batucada when it opened the Hubert Laws Concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in '79. Now she is a marketing executive at a high-end department store.

Young ones

How would current musicians take to Peñera's music? We gave some of them copies of Bong's compositions, and here are their remarks:

- Jazz pianist/singer Ria Villena of Happy People texted me, happily surprised.
- Wajihuara's Junji Lerma described the music as "*sobrang lupit* [intense]."
- Myra Ruaro of Brownbeat Allstars was challenged to work on their ska version of Peñera's "Beat Contemplation."
- The colorful Lourd de Veyra of Radioactive Sago Project declared: "*Ka*-career-*in ko 'to, pare* [I'll build on this]!"

Meanwhile, Cookie Chua of Affinity and Montes, as vocalist of Majam, have already done Peñera covers to their heart's content.

It seems the generation that grooved to Peñera's music is still very much around, if hidden behind graying hair and business suits. But all it takes is one note, one beat, one whisper of Peñera's name, for them to reveal the way they were in the '70s.

Where we started merely trying to locate Bong Peñera, we may end up actually exploring a large chunk of Original Pilipino Music history.

[Jojo M. Gonzales is a writer-filmmaker immersed in all sorts of workshops at the Mowelfund Film Institute and University of the Philippines Film Department. He hopes to do on film what Miles Davis, Pat Metheny and Bong Peñera *have done through their music—"to open up spaces in the mind."]*

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While top alumni wallow in riches, PMA is in deficit

By Fe Zamora

WHILE some lucky generals are accumulating millions of dollars in foreign bank accounts, the premier institution for educating the country's soldiery has been mirroring the national fiscal crisis, racking up budget deficits over several years.

WHILE/ A22

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Jun to woo Miriam all over again–for GMA tax plan

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

COULD newly appointed Presidential Adviser on Revenue Enhancement Narciso "Jun" Santiago Jr.'s job include

JUN/ A10

CIA leaked military corruption–Pimentel

Bush-GMA fallout said to have triggered exposé

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE US Central Intelligence Agency may have had a hand in the disclosure to the Philippine media of the corruption case against Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

Quoting an informant, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel yesterday raised this intriguing prospect concerning the scandal that had been rocking the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"According to my informant, the Garcia case happened more than six months ago but was not publicized because Gloria (Ms Arroyo) was still siding [with US President George W. Bush] in the war against Iraq," Pimentel told reporters at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City, where he and other senators are attending a two-day reform workshop.

But when Ms Arroyo pulled the Philippine contingent from Iraq in July to meet the demand of Iraqi insurgents holding truck driver Angelo de la Cruz hostage, the Americans apparently got mad at her, Pimentel said, quoting his source.

"I'm getting information that the CIA is involved here," the senator said, although he stressed that he had no proof to back this information.

"But the facts are that the sons of Garcia were nabbed [by

CIA LEAKED/ A4

INCOMING AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu (center) poses with 37 brigade and battalion commanders after a two-day leadership seminar in Fort Bonifacio on Friday. Beside Abu, from left are Col. Bernate, Brig. Gen. Mesa, Brig. Gen. Curva and Lt. Col Ylanan. EDWIN BACASMAS

Aide's son claims he owns cocks on Reyes lot

By Fe Zamora

THE 23-YEAR-OLD son of a former military logistics chief yesterday claimed he owned the cock farm on the lot of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes in Parañaque.

Carl Tabas, eldest son of Col. Felipe Tabas, said he started the cock farm at "Sir Reyes' vacant lot" in 1997 while he was still a high school student at Don Bosco in Makati.

"I started that with only P10,000 from my savings. It's business, not gambling," the young Tabas told the INQUIRER.

He said he was coming out "to avoid any misunderstanding" that the cock farm on Daang Batang Street, in Sto Niño, Parañaque, was owned by the former AFP chief of staff and secretary of national defense.

"*Akin po talaga yan. Yan kasi ang kinalakihan ko. Nag-ipon ako* (That's really mine. I grew up in that environment. I saved for it) It's my passion," the young Tabas declared.

Residents and barangay officials at Sto. Niño in the Moonwalk Subdivision have told the INQUIRER that the cock farm was owned by "General Reyes."

The farm is enclosed by a high concrete-and-mesh fence.

The young Tabas, a management graduate from the University of the East, walked into the INQUIRER offices yesterday and asked that he be allowed to clarify reports about the farm.

"I am sorry that my hobby has put my father and Secretary Reyes on a bad light," he said.

He said it would be impossible for Reyes to own a cock farm because the interior secretary was not fond of cockfighting.

"The Secretary does not even go to cockfights," Tabas added.

He recalled that sometime in

AIDE'S/ A22

Stick to your job, GMA tells commanders

By Alcuin Papa

SHE TOLD them to stick to their jobs and not allow the corruption scandal rocking the Armed Forces to affect their morale. They promised they would but warned that other groups might exploit the situation to destabilize the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo treated around 40 battalion and brigade commanders from units in Luzon to a dinner at Malacañang on Thursday night to check for herself how the controversy over the alleged unexplained wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was affecting soldiers' morale.

"There was a dialogue (and) she asked the morale of the troops in view of the Garcia brouhaha," a battalion commander said. "We told her that we reminded the troops to just concentrate on their jobs, wait for the result of the investigation and that those guilty should be punished." The officer, who asked for anonymity, said Ms Arroyo advised the officers to "concentrate on their jobs" and gave them the assurance that the reforms would be instituted to address the problem of corruption in the military.

Philippine Army chief and incoming AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Efren Abu said around 37 commanders who were attending a two-day leadership seminar in Fort Bonifacio were invited to the dinner.

In a statement yesterday, the members of the Association of

STICK/ A4

Lacson on Garcia's House probers: Look who's talking

By Christine O. Avendano, Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

LOOK who's talking.

This, in a nutshell, is Sen. Panfilo Lacson's take on the House investigation on the supposed corruption in the military, particularly the unexplained wealth of his "mistah," Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

"I don't think the congressmen realize that what they are investigating is Carlos Garcia's version of their own pork barrel," Lacson, who has just returned from a short trip abroad, said yesterday.

If Lacson is annoyed with Garcia's interrogators, the lawmaker also known as "Jose Pidal" is not impressed with the general's performance at the House inquiry.

"If I were to grade General Garcia, I'll give him a failing grade," Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo said in a phone interview.

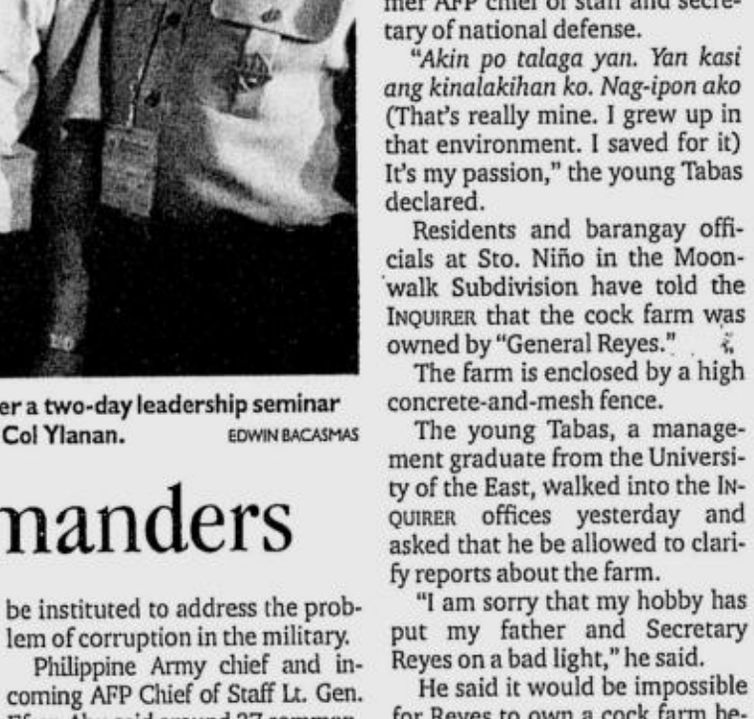
Lacson said the House inquiry should be stopped because the matter was not only being investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman but was also the subject of the soon to be convened court-martial that would try the two-star general.

It also did not help that the investigation had put the entire

LACSON/ A4

LACSON: No moral ascendancy to grill general

IGGY "JOSE PIDAL" ARROYO: A failing grade



WHERE high adventure and the highly needy are anywhere in the world, there Sir Edward Artis is with his 40-foot container vans (left) loaded with millions of dollars worth of hospital equipment, medicines, wheat, tents, blankets, etc. In the Philippines, he has been to Jolo among other places in direly needy Mindanao.

Modern-day Don Quixote triumphs

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

IS HE a knight-errant, an ex-Vietnam crazy with a persistent death wish, or, on a nobler plane, a 21st century Don Quijote who triumphs over windmills?

Sneaking into Taliban territory in Afghanistan, rushing to Rwanda after the infamous massacre, sailing to Jolo, Knight of Malta Sir Edward Artis does not travel light.

Somewhere in this troubled world, he leads a caravan on his umpteenth mercy mission.

He has in tow, 40-foot container vans loaded with millions of dollars worth of hospital equipment, medicines, wheat, tents and blankets. The man is—in a word—driven.

Driven to humanitarian causes, and possibly, that death wish.

"It must be high adventure and it must provide a service to humanity," these are Artis' criteria for deciding which part of the globe to head straight for.

On occasion, when he is unable to cross dangerous borders by land, he is prepared to parachute into combat zones. No mean feat for a 59-year-old, grey-haired chairman and co-founder of Knightsbridge International (KI).

In the Philippines, Knightsbridge has delivered nearly $21 million in rice, electric hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches and medicines in the last two years.

Artis' temporary home base is an absentee-friend's Makati condominium. With the dining room as a makeshift office, he works from two laptops. He solicits donations on one, and lines up his next destination on the other.

MODERN-DAY/ A8

Palace defends 'superbody'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday defended the creation of the Office of External Affairs as part of her streamlining program and denied it would be a "superbody," despite its apparently extensive reach.

Ferdinand Mahusay, who took his oath the other day as presidential assistant for Region 9, will be a member of the OEA, Ms Arroyo said.

Mahusay is the brother of Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, who last year blew the whistle on the alleged "Jose Pidal" secret bank accounts of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo. Udong later recanted his allegations.

Malacañang insiders had told the INQUIRER the OEA would be a new "superbody" in Malacañang, would have as many as 100 members nationwide and would even have its own political attaché in the United States.

They said the OEA, which reportedly would get a P100-million budget, was created

PALACE/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/23/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Gov't food for hungry program not nationwide after all

By Volt Contreras

THE GOVERNMENT'S food coupon and rice subsidy program for schoolchildren—twin measures that were spurred by a recent Social Weather Stations survey showing a growing number of hungry Filipinos—will not be felt nationwide after all.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman yesterday said the "Food for Work, Food for School" package to help the country's poorest families would cover only the National Capital Region and eight provinces.

Soliman said the Food For School component will be launched in public schools in Metro Manila, Cavite, Bulacan and Rizal, which have shown the highest dropout rates in Grades 1 and 2.

Under this scheme, each pupil will each be given one kilogram of rice to take home each day.

The Food for Work project will cover Camarines Sur, Eastern Samar, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Sulu, provinces which have the worst poverty levels, Soliman said.

Target families will be asked to render community service in exchange for monthly food coupons worth P1,200 as well as seed capital to start a small business.

Explaining the reason for the limited coverage, Soliman said that contrary to the "perception" generated by the SWS survey, "our (the government's) numbers on poverty incidence do not yet require a blanket intervention."

"We want to be judicious and targeted in the use of our resources, focusing on the families that are most vulnerable," she said.

Undersecretary Celia Yangco added that the program would "first [be] tested in areas needing intervention the most so that we can get feedback and assess its impact" on the communities concerned.

Soliman and President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted a press lunch yesterday, following a meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission at the Department of Social Welfare and Development main office in Quezon City.

Asked how much the government would spend for the intervention program, the President quoted an amount that was bigger than what Soliman earlier told reporters.

Ms Arroyo said the whole initiative would cost P250 million, almost five times the P51-million budget Soliman mentioned at a press conference on Wednesday.

The President also said an initial 100,000 families stand to benefit from the program, to be implemented mainly by the DSWD starting next month.

The figure was only a fraction of earlier DSWD projections which placed at five million the number of families to be given food coupons.

Passport processing to double next year

By Carlito Pablo

PASSPORTS will cost 120 percent more next year.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has reported to the House appropriations committee that the cost of processing passports in 2005 will more than double from P500 to P1,100 a piece.

Based on the same DFA report, appropriations panel chair Rep. Rolando Andaya (LP, Camarines Sur) said that processing fees will increase even more depending on the foreign exchange rate.

Andaya said that the increase is due to the adoption and issuance next year of "machine readable passports" under a build-operate-transfer project by the DFA.

The DFA has contracted the firm BCA Corp. to produce the new generation of Philippine passports at a project cost of $50.3 million.

In its report to the Andaya committee, the DFA said that the BOT proponent-BCA Corp. is entitled to collect P600 for each passport over and above the P500 that the DFA charges.

"The proponent is allowed to make adjustments on its fee due to foreign exchange fluctuations," DFA also said.

Andaya remarked: "That's it. The document Filipinos use to earn dollars abroad will increase in cost as the dollar appreciates against the peso."

Andaya urged the DFA to put in added value features in the new passports by adding more pages and lengthening the validity period of the document.

"If it can't renegotiate a lower price, then DFA should render value-added service because people won't mind paying a higher fee in getting a bulkier passport with a longer life," Andaya said.

The DFA expects to earn P1.5 billion from passports in 2005.

Last year, the DFA issued a total of 1.5 million passports.

Smokey Mountain is safe, says builder

SMOKEY Mountain is safe.

This was the assurance made yesterday by housing developer R-II Builders in the wake of questions regarding the alleged health and safety hazards posed by the tons of garbage in what was once the country's biggest dump.

In a press statement, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, former internal revenue commissioner and spokesperson of R-II Builders, said the project had complied and even surpassed the standards set by the Department of Environment Natural Resources and US regulations on solid waste management.

In fact, Chato said, the Smokey Mountain project has been hailed as an "Asian model for environmental renewal" because of the builder's implementation of "fail-safe" systems to ensure the long-term health and safety of the residents in the area.

Chato, in a press statement, said Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP) was not only issued an environmental compliance certificate (ECC); the safety measures implemented to guarantee the long-term safety and health of residents also go beyond the standards set by the DENR and were consistent with more stringent US regulations on solid waste management.

She said R-II Builders, in consultation with foreign environmental engineering experts, has carried out extensive measures to address the following concerns in undertaking the Smokey Mountain housing project: the generation and off-site migration of landfill gases; the possible gas buildup beneath and within the buildings; and the impact of such gases on the quality of ground and surface water at the site.

Erap seeks court's nod for knee surgery in HK

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada, facing charges he salted away at least $80 million during his rule, has asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to travel to Hong Kong next month to undergo an operation on his arthritic knees.

Rene Saguisag, Estrada's lead defense counsel and a former senator, filed a petition on Thursday seeking the anti-graft court's permission "on humanitarian and compassionate grounds" for the deposed leader to see his American doctor at a Hong Kong hospital next month.

The granting of the leave to travel, he said, "would conduce to mend the ruptures of our national discord, for, like a family, we must survive our crises, together, and continue to live and function as a unit."

Estrada, under house arrest at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, has difficulty walking and rarely appears in court for his plunder trial. The film star turned politician is not expected to attend Monday's hearing on his petition.

ESTRADA: Humanitarian and compassionate grounds PDI PHOTO

Saguisag told the court Estrada would be admitted to Hong Kong Adventist Hospital for 19 days from Nov. 24. He would leave the Philippines on Nov. 22 and return on Dec. 15, before the Christmas holidays.

"He is anxious to have a long delayed operation done and would like certainly to be home at the start of the season of grace and goodwill, to be with his loved ones, particularly his 99-year-old ailing mother whose every Christmas may be her last," the petition said.

Government lawyers are expected to oppose Estrada's trip but Saguisag told Reuters he was "optimistic the court will rule favorably."

The court earlier allowed Estrada, who is suffering from arthritic knees and back problems, to go to the US for medical treatment in December. But Estrada did not take the trip after failing to get a travel visa from the US. He also found too high the cost of the treatment and expenses for four guards to ensure he would return to Manila.

Estrada's California-based doctor, Christopher Mow, said in a letter attached to the petition that the treatment in Hong Kong would cost an estimated US$55,000. Saguisag said that was cheaper than having the operation in the US.

In a letter by Jeremy Low of the Adventist Hospital to Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, Estrada's local physician, he said Estrada would have to spend HK$450,000 "for 18 days hospital stay."

Estrada's private room would cost HK$2,880 per night, semi-private room HK$2,880 a night; and apartment near the hospital, HK$1,200 per night.

Estrada earlier bared plans to go to Switzerland for the operation, but the Office of the Special Prosecutor immediately shot the plan down.

"FPJ (Poe) was his last card. He was hoping for a political solution to a legal problem," Villa-Ignacio said of Estrada's plan to seek political relief in the plunder and perjury charges against him before the Sandiganbayan had Poe won the elections.

"This is his fall back position," he said of Estrada's plans to escape the reported certainty of his getting jailed for perjury and plunder charges. *Reuters with a report from Armand Nocum*

Ombudsman starts probe of graft in PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE OMBUDSMAN has begun a quiet investigation into the reportedly large-scale corruption at the Philippine National Police involving some generals and other top police officials.

Investigators from the office of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo have approached a number of PNP officers knowledgeable about the multi-million racket, according to a senior police official who said he was himself tapped by the probers.

"They came to me and sought my help," the official said in an interview.

"Apparently, they don't know very much about how police officials siphon off money from our budget," said the source who has held several key positions connected with the PNP directorate for comptrollership, the office that manages the funds of the Camp Crame police headquarters.

Under the PNP's system of "decentralized" fund distribution, each PNP regional office has its own comptroller and budget officer.

Quoting Ombudsman representatives, the source said there would be a full-blown inquiry into the PNP as soon as the Ombudsman has completed its investigation of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former Armed Forces comptroller accused of stealing millions of pesos from the military's budget.

The PNP source said the Ombudsman would find "several other Garcias" within the police organization, "distributing among themselves annual savings of between P500 million and P1 billion."

The Internal Affairs Service, the PNP's internal anti-graft body, is conducting a parallel lifestyle check on top police officials who have allegedly enriched themselves in the service.

However, a number of officials, including a general being investigated for corruption, have little faith in the IAS and its chief, Insp. Gen. Alexis Canonizado, describing the agency as "toothless."

The IAS last week instructed the PNP's 115,000 members to submit their statements of assets and liabilities for the past five years.

A police general who used to hold a sensitive post at Camp Crame said the SALs were a good way by which investigators could nail corrupt officials.

"All they have to do is compare them with our actual assets and they'll see who's corrupt and who's not," he said.

"Doing it through [a] paper trail would be very difficult because documents have already been doctored," he added.

Besides the familiar "fund conversion" for which the Armed Forces is now being skewered, the PNP source said the Ombudsman should also look into how some police officials allegedly took a huge chunk out of the PNP's annual budget and distributed the loot among themselves through a so-called "throwback" system.

They should also study the structure of the comptroller's office, its members and their respective backgrounds, and the PNP budget flow, the source said.

"It's common knowledge within the PNP that some of those who have held positions connected with the comptrollership have become inexplicably rich," he said.

FOOT SOLDIERS. Police recruits wearing new combat boots jog around Camp Crame for their morning exercises. EDWIN BACASMAS

Marcelo tells Congress Ombudsman needs more money

By Armand N. Nocum

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo wants Congress to put its money where its mouth is.

In a letter to Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, chair of the House committee on national defense, Marcelo raised the "urgent necessity to drastically increase" the funding of the Office of the Ombudsman "for its vigorous and able investigation and prosecutors' services."

Marcelo issued a statement wherein he announced that he had written Golez on the matter.

At present, he said, the Office of the Ombudsman had only eight field investigators "to cover the whole military establishment and other law enforcement offices," and a "meager operation budget of P380 million, which can only finance a ratio of one field investigator for every 17,241 government officials and employees."

At the hearings on the alleged corruption in the Armed Forces, certain lawmakers expressed dismay over the Ombudsman's supposed slowness in charging Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia with plunder before the Sandiganbayan, or in freezing his assets.

In a statement drafted by Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos, Marcelo said their budget "pales in comparison" with that of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The Icac, which has been credited for ridding the former British colony of graft, has a ratio of one field investigator for every 208 public servants and an annual budget equivalent to "almost P5 billion," Marcelo said.

In an earlier interview, Marcelo asked the government for more than P1 billion to help the Office of the Ombudsman in the campaign against graft and corruption.

He said that in its current state, the anti-graft office was "bound to fail."

Also in the Ombudsman's wish list are prosecutors and graft investigators.

"It's like a war. I need men," he said, adding:

"I know how to win the battle, but I don't know whether we have the resources."

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Naga City, Bicol

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Ar-gie Benito
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September 30
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Gapan City

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Lacson on Garcia's House probers: Look ...

From page A1

Armed Forces in a bad light, the senator said. But what appeared to irritate him was the way some of the lawmakers had been questioning the former AFP comptroller now on the hot seat for having acquired unexplained assets here and abroad.

"Assuming the allegations against General Garcia are true—that he took commissions from suppliers—what makes the difference between a general receiving commissions from a congressman or a senator receiving commissions from suppliers and contractors? It's the same banana," he told reporters at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City.

He added that the lawmakers, "and they know who they are, should take a good look at themselves in the mirror before asking questions."

Lacson has constantly assailed the annual allocation of pork barrel to lawmakers, which he described as a source of graft and corruption. He has given up his own pork barrel since 2002.

In an interview, Lacson said he was not trying to mitigate Garcia's alleged criminal liability. But he said it was just too ironic that Garcia's interrogators had no "moral ascendancy" over the general.

In 2002, Lacson himself was accused of holding more than $1 million in US banks. He earlier denied having bank accounts in the United States; subsequently, he admitted that he did own such accounts but that these had been closed.

'Eaten by the system'

Like Garcia a 1971 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Lacson said he knew the general to be a "good guy" and someone who adhered to "the ideals of the academy."

"But probably—this is probably—he was eaten by the system, which sometimes happens to some of the graduates," the senator said.

In an interview over dzBB, Lacson tried to explain why some PMA graduates failed the "courage, integrity and loyalty" that they had been taught to live by.

PMA graduates leave the academy full of idealism, only to find out in the field that their upperclassmen were treading the wrong path, he said.

But Lacson told the INQUIRER that Garcia could not feign innocence.

Open-and-shut case

He said he had read the statements of Garcia's wife Clarita—"both typewritten and handwritten"—which showed that "this is an open-and-shut case."

He also said it was "very clear" that the documentary evidence provided by US authorities were incriminating because Clarita Garcia had in effect owned up to criminal acts although she was not asked to do so.

Lacson called on the House to immediately conclude its investigation given the supposed perceived lack of credibility of some of the lawmakers involved in it.

He pointed out that the pre-trial investigation of the Judge Advocate General was almost finished, which would pave the way for a court-martial, and that the Office of the Ombudsman was also actively pursuing the case.

"I believe there are enough data or inputs that Congress has gathered to help it craft legislation," he said.

Lacson added that it was imperative to do away with the House inquiry so as not to further inflict damage on the AFP.

"What I worry about is that it has already affected the AFP as an institution, including the Philippine Military Academy," he said.

'Red-handed'

Arroyo, younger brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, said Garcia's invoking of his right against self-incrimination was not doing him any good.

"From all indications, he appears to have been caught red-handed, and invoking the right against self-incrimination just bolsters perception that one is guilty but doesn't want to admit it," Arroyo said.

House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles had a harsher view of the general.

"Zero," he said when asked to rate Garcia's performance at the hearings of the House committees on national defense and on banks.

"General Garcia is clearly hiding the truth deliberately and won't squeak protecting his masters, Nograles said.

Arroyo was thrust into the limelight in 2003 in quite similar circumstances, in the sense that millions of pesos were also involved.

Right to privacy

He claimed to be the Jose Pidal under whose name bank accounts containing Ms Arroyo's campaign funds were opened. In so doing, he took the heat off his brother, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, whom Senator Lacson had accused of being Jose Pidal.

When summoned by the Senate, Ignacio Arroyo repeatedly invoked his right to privacy, asserting that as a private citizen, he was under no legal compulsion to explain how he come to possess the supposed P200 million in bank deposits under the name of Jose Pidal.

Lawmakers told: Leave Garcia to Ombudsman, get back to work

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN yesterday said Congress had done enough in investigating Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and should turn its attention to the tax measures and the 2005 budget being pushed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I think [the lawmakers] should move on and leave the case to the Ombudsman, who should continue the probe on a transparent basis by giving the media full access to the proceedings, or the case would lose momentum," said Federation of Philippine Industries president Jesus Arranza.

Industrialist Raul Concepcion warned of the impact of washing the brass' dirty linen in public, particularly on the troops' morale.

He said that when a top business group was briefed on the corruption in the military shortly after the failed mutiny last year, the group's leaders were so shocked that they suggested that the government be circumspect in releasing the findings of the investigation because it could lead to instability in the Armed Forces.

"I think the military and the legislators have enough documentary evidence for the courts to take charge in prosecuting the offenders. I don't think the legislators can do much more at this point," Concepcion said.

Donald Dee, executive vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, aired a similar view.

He added: "The [people] are watching. If the courts mishandle the probe, the people will be the one to take action."

According to Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, lawmakers have the right to investigate in aid of legislation, "as long as it doesn't hamper the court-martial proceedings or distract them from their primary role of passing new taxes and the budget."

Palace sees speedy trial

MALACAÑANG is looking forward to a "speedy" court-martial for Garcia, with prosecutors tapping government and civilian resources in going after him.

"The court-martial is in place and we anticipate a speedy trial," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, said in a statement.

"The military and civil systems are teaming up to consolidate the evidence and tighten the strategy of the prosecution," he said.

Garcia has been charged with violation of the Articles of War, specifically for committing fraud against the government, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and for neglect and disorder to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Bunye expected the court-martial to be closely watched by the public similar to the investigation being conducted by the House committees on national defense and banking.

"All eyes are on how the AFP will continue to redeem itself as it cleanses its ranks," he said.

Bunye said Malacañang had committed to leave no stone unturned in the court-martial, which is expected to run parallel with the investigation being conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman on the multimillion-peso property and bank deposits held by Garcia.

But Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said the government should also enlist the support of other countries along with the United States in locating and freezing Garcia's other assets.

Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier and Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr., vice chairs of the committee on national defense, likewise said the government's intelligence units should coordinate with other countries about Garcia's case. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

CIA leaked military corruption—Pimentel

From page A1

US customs] more than six months ago, and the exposé as to the arrest ... or the attempt to bring in $100,000, was only revealed recently," he pointed out.

Two of Garcia's sons were held at the San Francisco airport in December for failing to declare that they were carrying $100,000.

The Office of the Ombudsman began to investigate the two-star general for unexplained wealth in February. It subsequently recommended his suspension as AFP comptroller.

The media got wind of the incident involving Garcia's son only this month.

Waiting for list

Malacañang, however, is waiting for the US government to provide a list of Philippine officials under investigation for unexplained wealth in the United States.

"If the US authorities informed us about the case of Garcia, I suppose they will inform us about the rest," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"That's what we are waiting for—I mean the President herself is waiting for it," he said.

Gonzalez said he did not know the identities of the Philippine officials listed, or the assets supposedly traced under their names.

Earlier, ex-military rebel Rex Robles said US authorities had told him that two other generals and three Cabinet-level officials had sizeable dollar deposits in the United States.

Robles was a member of the Feliciano Commission, which investigated the failed mutiny in Makati City last year.

Gonzalez told his former colleagues in the House to conclude its inquiry into Garcia's case and let the Ombudsman and the military court take over. *(See sidebar on this page.)*

He said the House should instead train its guns on how the AFP could tighten its rules on procurement and how the Commission on Audit should assess these transactions.

"I don't believe that anomalies can be committed without the COA being part of it," Gonzalez said.

Tarnished image

He urged the COA to investigate the auditors who handled the transactions made by Garcia.

"When the Armed Forces makes bids, these should be checked by the COA. You do not just leave that to the soldiers," he said.

In Zamboanga City, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya admitted on Wednesday that the corruption scandal involving Garcia had tarnished the AFP's image before foreign governments, particularly that of the United States.

But he said the military's bad image had not deterred the United States and "our other partners" from continuing to support the Philippines.

He said Washington had not backtracked from its commitment to help in the AFP's modernization because it was viewing the scandal as an internal concern of the Philippine government.

Abaya said the corruption scandal was not as serious as in other countries, which he did not identify.

He said what the AFP had been doing was setting aside "false pride," which, he noted, would only worsen the problem.

"If we want to solve the problem, we better accept that there is an existing problem, and we need to get help from others to solve [it]," he said.

Abaya said the military's admission that a problem existed would help in its effort to cleanse its ranks.

"Our foreign partners would even admire us if we accept that we have problems and we are bent on addressing these seriously," he said.

He also urged other military officials who might be involved in graft and corruption to adopt an attitude of "self-criticism" or, if not that, "self-reflection."

Not his property

Abaya also said his rumored 12-hectare property in Barangay Gango in RT Lim, Zamboanga Sibugay, actually belonged to his aide de camp, Army Capt. Alvin Luzon.

According to Abaya, Luzon is not hiding ownership of the property planted to mango because it is listed in the latter's statement of assets and liabilities for 2003.

He said Luzon acquired the property for P50,000.

"What I owned and sold in September was my property in Doña Josefa [in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay]. I sold it because it's very far from Luzon," Abaya said.

Jarque papers

In Davao City, the Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao (Inpeace) urged Congress to consider an essay written by resigned Army Capt. Rene Jarque in its investigation of the supposed corruption in the military.

The essay, published in the 1997 Army Journal, and Jarque's other writings delve into the issue of corruption in the military. The "conversion" of funds is described as "the mother of all corruption in the AFP, the source of jealousies, and demoralization in the ranks."

War is good business

Inpeace convenor Bishop Felixberto Calang said the Jarque papers "can lay the framework for a more thorough and extensive investigation of the corruption in the AFP."

"Cracking into Garcia necessarily means cracking into the whole can of worms that is the AFP," Calang said, adding:

"We believe that the Jarque papers give a broader and more credible view of the roots of and solutions to military corruption, compared with the Feliciano Commission's report."

The bishop also said a corrupt military "correlates to the escalation of human rights violations and a proclivity to unleash all-out wars and operations in the countryside."

"Indeed, war is good business," he said. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Correction

THE SCHOOL of Deaf Education and Applied Studies of DLS-College of Saint Benilde would like to make corrections in the article, "Listen, it's beautiful to be alive and deaf" which appeared on the front page of the Oct. 19 issue:

1. The term "deaf" should be capitalized. This is out of respect for the Deaf community's unique culture. The big "D" distinguishes the Deaf as a group of people with their own unique language, that of sign language, own identity and culture.

2. The correct title of Theresa Christine de la Torre is dean, not director.

3. The term university should be omitted from De La Salle University-College of Saint Benilde. The correct name is De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde.

4. SDEAS already has a total of 34 faculty members, 11 of which are Deaf faculty, 9 of whom are Deaf Benildean graduates.

***

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Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Stick to your job, GMA tells commanders

From page A1

Generals and Flag Officers Inc. (Agfo) expressed concern at the possible repercussions of the investigation of Garcia.

Warning from officers

"Agfo views the ongoing proceedings and its concomitant effect on the general public, particularly those with insidious objectives, with grave concern," the officers said.

"The morale of the rank and the file members of the AFP may be adversely affected by the negative comments against the AFP and the whole situation is open to exploitation by those whose agenda is to destabilize or topple the government."

Agfo stressed that it condemned any wrongdoing by anyone, especially in the military or police service, and that "the case of Major General Garcia is no exception."

"If there is evidence of corruption or any crime against him, he should be prosecuted by the proper authorities to the fullest extent of the law," it added.

No loyalty check

Besides discussing the corruption issue during the dinner that lasted from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Ms Arroyo also asked for suggestions from the officers on how to solve the insurgency problem.

After the dialogue, the officers and the President were served grilled beef, vegetables, rice and ice cream for dessert.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya denied there was a loyalty check in the meeting.

"I don't think so. There is no need for a loyalty check. I think these reports about destabilization are all part of rumormongering," Abaya told reporters.

In a speech to the Philippine Air Force yesterday, Abaya said the military justice system was working to resolve the cases of Garcia as well as those of other senior officers being investigated for various offenses.

"The judicial process and the military justice system are in place to resolve the cases to fruition. And our men and women must view these in a positive way. This is an opportunity for the AFP to reclaim its pride and honor in the face of perceptions that we cannot cleanse our own ranks," Abaya said.

He added that cleansing their ranks "is going to be a long and painful process."

"But these developments will be the catalysts that shall accelerate the advancement of reforms in the AFP. And all of us must stand together to do away with malpractices that undermine the moral ascendancy of the AFP to be the protector of the people and the state," Abaya continued.

'Military bashing'

Abaya also said that he hoped to convene the court-martial against Garcia before he (Abaya) retires on Oct. 29.

AFP Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said "there was no grumbling" among soldiers.

"The soldiers are just wary about how these things are being projected to the public," Lucero said.

"Some sentiments among our soldiers are that the manner by which these stories are being projected to the public is interpreted as military bashing," he added. "Some would go as far as looking at this as an insult or ridicule which is actually destroying the dignity, the honor, the reputation of all members of the Armed Forces."

Garcia is facing charges before the Ombudsman and an investigation at the House of Representatives for allegedly accumulating alleged ill-gotten wealth during his term as AFP comptroller.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo discussed with the officers the steps military justice system was taking against high-ranking officers accused of graft and the progress of ongoing reforms in the AFP.

During the dinner, Bunye said the officers "confirmed that troop morale is high and that the high level of vigilance against all threat groups is being sustained."

Divisive forces

Bunye said that the military officers "pledged to fight all attempts to divide the Armed Forces or to undermine the chain of command by any quarters disloyal to democracy."

Malacañang had previously warned that the corruption scandal involving top military officers could sow unrest among the rank and file.

In its statement, Agfo also said that Garcia's right under the Constitution and the law should be respected in the current investigation and he should be accorded due process.

"He alone and those who may be involved in the anomaly should be held to account for their misdeeds. As it appears, however, it is as if the whole AFP organization is being indicted," Agfo said.

'Witch-hunt'

"At the rate it is going, what started as a legitimate inquiry might turn out to be a witch-hunt. Perhaps unwittingly, some congressmen in the glare of klieg lights before TV cameras and the presence of media make statements that inflict damage on the AFP and other institutions such as the PMA."

Agfo warned that this might result in demoralization among the members of the AFP "as sometimes they are made the butt of jokes and even ridicule."

Unfair

"To utter negative remarks against the institution in dealing with a particular individual member is unfair to the rest of the members of the institution....We should take responsibility for our actions [but see to it] that we do not inadvertently subvert or undermine the institution or the government because of the misdeeds of a few. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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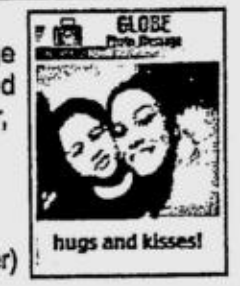

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MILF wants ceasefire body to quiz suspects

By Alcuin Papa

THE SECESSIONIST group the Moro Islamic Liberation Front will ask the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities to investigate the three suspected operatives of the Jemaah Islamiyah who were arrested early this month by the military.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu admitted that one of those arrested, identified as Mursid Mubpon, is a regular member of the MILF while Abdul Manap Mentang used to be an active member.

"They should be investigated by the CCCH to determine the extent of the government's case against them," Kabalu said. "Things like this should be brought to the process which the GRP and the MILF peace panels have agreed upon," he added.

Kabalu said Mentang used to be an active MILF member but was removed from its membership roster after he was found to be an agent of the military.

Initial investigation conducted by the group revealed that Mentang was supposed to be married to Monawara Usop, a shop worker in Manila, who was also arrested by police and military operatives along with Mentang and Mubpon inside their rented apartment in Manila early this month.

Kabalu confirmed that Mubpon is a member of the MILF.

But the MILF spokesperson could not confirm Mubpon's role in the group and what he was doing in Manila at the time of his arrest.

Kabalu accused the military of sabotaging the peace negotiations due to its persistence in linking the separatist group to the JI, a regional terror network with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

ENCHANTING BEAUTIES
Ms Earth 2004 candidates try one of the rides at the Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The global beauties were treated to a day of fun and relaxation by the management and staff of the entertainment complex.

SSS to run out of funds in 10 years, says ex-chief

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FINANCES of the Social Security System will dry up by about 2015, after which the government would have to subsidize the state-run pension fund's liabilities up to 2065, further impacting on the government's fiscal health, according to a former SSS president.

Vitaliano Nañagas, who now chairs the Development Bank of the Philippines, said this at a strategic planning workshop for senators yesterday where he was invited to comment on proposed financial reforms.

Nañagas, who relied on an actuarial study presented earlier by Dr. Mario Lamberte, president of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies, stressed that the quality of the state-run pension funds—both the private-employee SSS and the government-sector Government Service Insurance System—would have long-term effects on the economy.

Lamberte said in his study that the deteriorating actuarial fund life and fund ratio of the SSS would "hit rock bottom" in 2015, after which the study showed that the government would have to subsidize up to P1.2 trillion in "unfunded liabilities" of the SSS up to 2065.

Nañagas said this scenario was already starting as the "amount of claims have already exceeded the amount of contributions received" by the SSS since 1999.

He agreed with Lamberte that the immediate solution was to raise the SSS contribution rate.

State employees who are members of the GSIS are marginally better off as the GSIS would have a longer life span.

Lamberte said that based on projections of the GSIS social insurance fund, the GSIS' yearly benefits would exceed the contributions of the members only in 2024, expenses would exceed revenues in 2056 and reserves would run out in 2068.

A separate study by the World Bank said however that the yearly expenses of the GSIS would exceed revenues in 2025, while reserves would run out in 2041, according to Lamberte.

Sen. Manuel Villar suggested jokingly that the retirement age be extended from the present 65 years old.

"There's the possibility that by 2065, the life expectancy would be 150. So we can extend the retirement age to about 130, isn't it?" said Villar, eliciting chuckles from the audience.

Sen. Ralph Recto suggested that the two pension systems be merged and the scheme changed from a pension fund to mutual fund so that the government's financial involvement in the two agencies would be limited.

FPJ lawyer scores slow pace of poll protest before SC

A LAWYER of defeated opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday lamented that Poe's electoral protest has been moving at a "turtle-like" pace at the Supreme Court, which constitutes the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

Sixto Brillantes, Poe's counsel, noted that it has been three months since he asked the SC to order the preservation of the ballots now in the custody of Congress and to allow an ocular inspection of these ballots.

At a press conference at Club Filipino, Brillantes explained that he was worried because the order he was seeking was just precautionary, "not even going into the protest proper yet."

"It is my feeling that we are somehow moving in a turtle-like manner because the Supreme Court might want to start with the protest proper probably in 2005," said Brillantes who added that he wrote to remind the high court about the matter just three days ago.

The Poe camp believes the SC is waiting for the right time, when the country is in a more stable condition, to come up with a resolution of the issue.

According to Brillantes, allowing the protest to proceed at this time might "aggravate" the situation in the country as "we would be able to show, in about one month's time, the kind of cheating that was committed in the canvass documents, including the election returns."

The lawyer said the Poe camp fears that the 2,000 or so ballot boxes in Congress might be "touched."

"The distinguished members of Congress who have an absolute and overwhelming majority... might decide to touch this knowing full well that the election returns are, in fact, the best evidence that we have against the cheating that was committed principally in the Mindanao area," he said.

The lawyer later took back the suggestion, saying he did not believe legislators would allow themselves to be used as accomplices in a blatant tampering of evidence. *Luige A. del Puerto*

NEWSBRIEFS

Vietnam rejects China's protest

HANOI—Vietnam has dismissed China's protest against state oil firm Petrovietnam inviting bids for oil exploration in the disputed Spratly Islands.

"It should be reaffirmed that these nine blocks are entirely located within Vietnam's continental shelf and under Vietnam's sovereignty," the foreign ministry said in a statement published on its website.

Last month, Petrovietnam offered the 9 blocks in Phu Khanh basin off central Vietnam with an average 7,000 sq. km. per block, estimated to hold oil reserves of up to 1.5 billion barrels.

China denounced the offer on Wednesday, saying it violated China's sovereignty and would complicate and broaden the dispute over the Spratlys.

Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines also claim portions of the islands. *Reuters*

Malaysia offers amnesty to illegals

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia has offered an amnesty for all illegal immigrants to return home during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a day after pardoning Indonesian illegals, a minister said Friday.

An estimated 1.2 million illegal immigrants would be allowed to return to their home countries during a two-week amnesty period starting from Oct. 29, Home Minister Azmi Khalid said.

"We are not going to penalize them. Many of them are lying low for fear of getting caught by the authorities. This time, we will allow them to walk away scot-free," Azmi told *AFP.*

Australia issues advisory vs RP

AUSTRALIA yesterday advised anew its citizens in the Philippines to exercise "extreme caution" when traveling to "tourist areas" amid persistent reports that terrorists in Southeast Asia were plotting fresh attacks.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade issued the advisory a day after the military announced that three people, who allegedly carried out last year's bombings in Davao City and planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila, had been arrested.

"Australians in the Philippines should exercise extreme caution, particularly in areas known to be frequented by foreigners, including coastal resorts," the department said in its latest travel advisory.

"We continue to receive reports that terrorists in the region are planning attacks. These could occur at any time, anywhere in the Philippines," it added.

Australians were also urged to defer non-essential travel to Mindanao and avoid the Zamboanga peninsula and the Sulu archipelago. *TJ Burgonio*

British minister backs GMA reforms

THE BRITISH minister of state for trade, investments and foreign affairs has thrown his support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's "ambitious" legislative reform agenda, saying its passage into law would lure more foreign investors into the country.

Douglas Alexander called on the Presiden at Malacañang on Thursday and assured her of the British government's support for her commitment to introduce fiscal reforms through a package of tax measures.

"We assured her of our support for the process of reforms that she had arranged, particularly the fiscal reform package, which I understand will be going to Congress in the days to come," he said in a press briefing Thursday night. *TJ Burgonio*

Three arrested in drug busts

PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency agents arrested three persons, including a Ghanaian tourist, in separate anti-illegal drug operations in Metro Manila and Davao Oriental.

Undersecretary and PDEA Director General Anselmo Avenido Jr. identified the suspects as Ghanaian Alexander Ebo Odoom, Sama Justo and Donito Laguigtan. Odoom is a car mechanic based in Japan while Justo and Laguigtan were alleged marijuana cultivators based in Carraga, Davao Oriental. *Nelson F. Flores*

Higher racing taxes eyed

TWO congressmen yesterday endorsed a move by the National Tax Research Center to restore the 30-percent amusement tax on race tracks to generate additional revenues for the government.

Rep. Alfredo Maranon (NPC, Negros Occidental) that based on the annual gross sales of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) and the Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI), the estimated revenues would range from P861 million to P2.039 billion.

He said that under the Internal Revenue Code, operators of racing clubs must pay 30 percent tax based on gross receipts, on top of the local amusement tax. *Cynthia D. Balana*

David, lawyer, dies

LAWYER Edward P. David, eldest son of writer and optometrist Ligaya D. Perez and the late Roberto S. David of San Clemente, Tarlac, died of heart attack at the Santo Tomas University Hospital on Oct. 19.

He is survived by his wife, Ma. Fe Roque David and children: Raymund and Anna Belinda Dimailig David; Gerard and Ma. Annaliza de Guzman David; Edward III and Ma. Ethellori Mariano David; and Myriam R. David. His body lies in state at Bahay Carmelo, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Proj. 6, Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Manila Memorial Park Holy Cross, Novaliches, Quezon City, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

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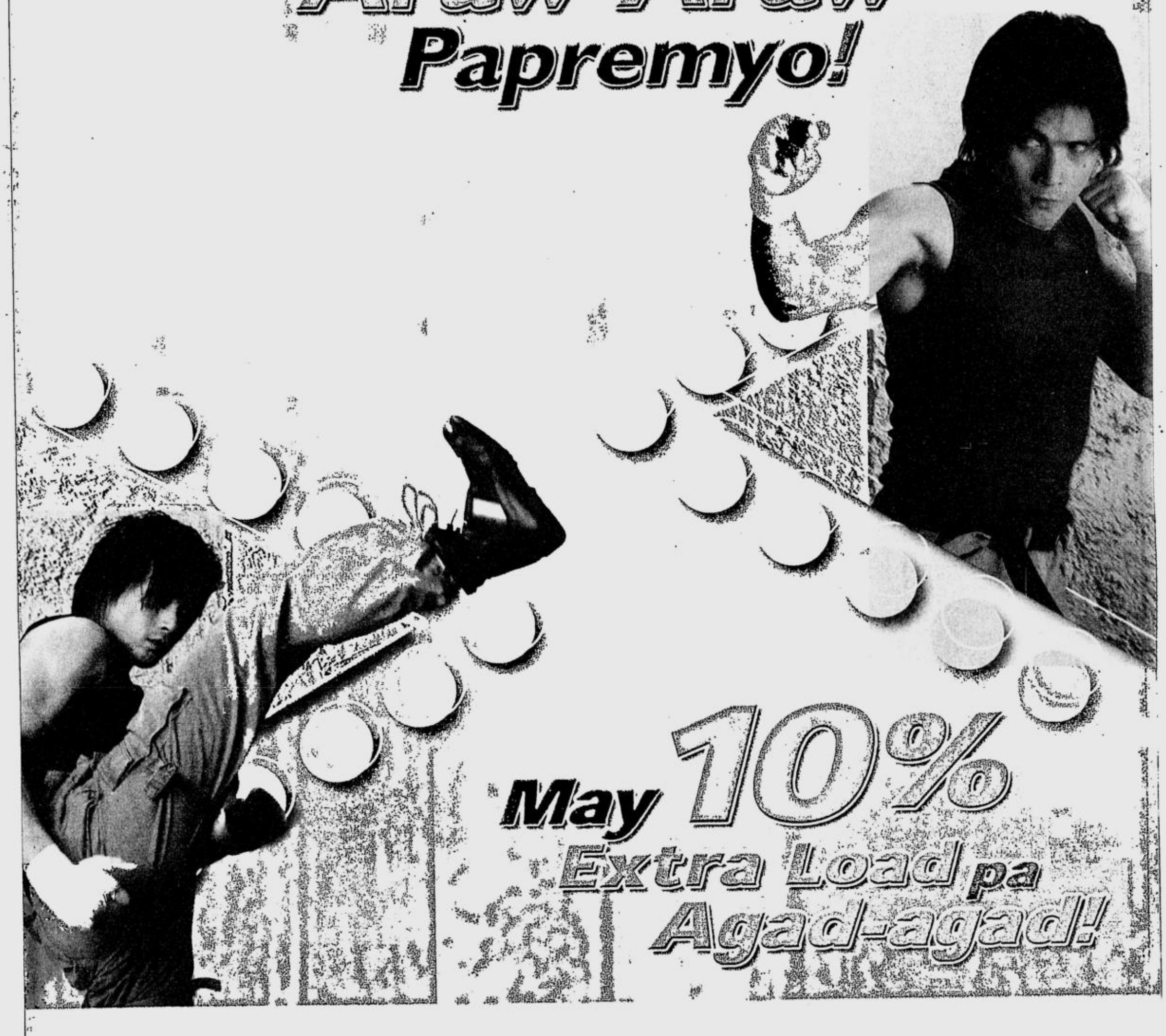

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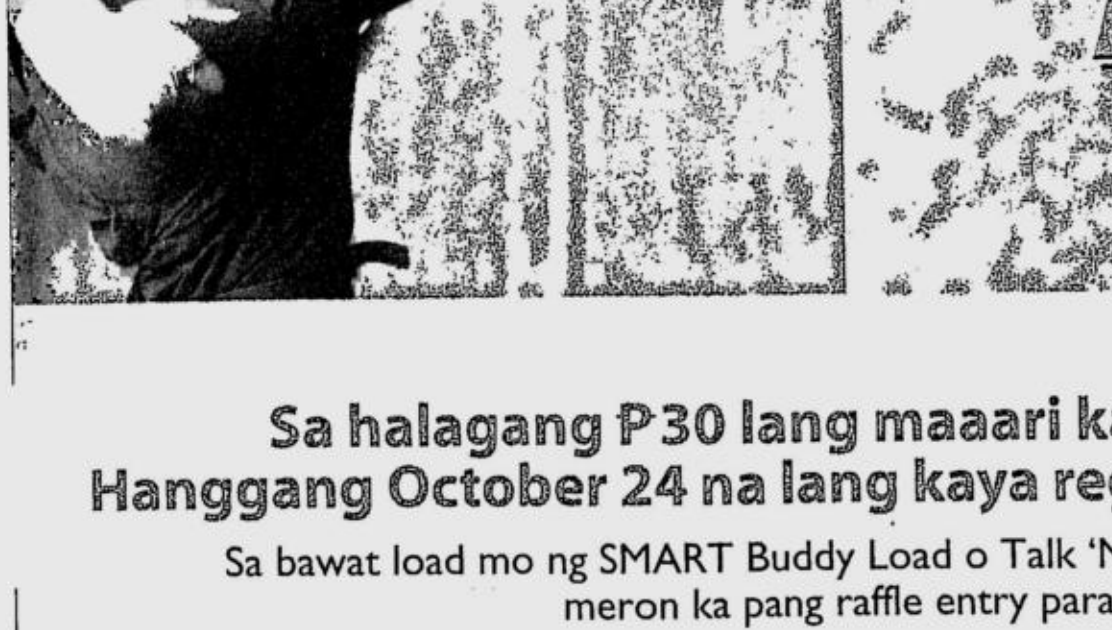

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Modern-day Don Quixote triumphs

From page A1

The condo's walls are plastered with maps and lists of Philippine contacts who will help him get his goods where they are needed most. The lists include some military types, governors, mayors, CEOs in the private sector—an unlikely mishmash of names.

War-affected areas

In 1993, Artis was knighted in Moscow in the Order of Malta, a religious order formed in France in 1054. He met another Maltese Knight Dr. James Laws, 67, an Ohio cardiologist.

Together, Artis and Laws formed Knightsbridge, a not-for-profit organization, which goes on humanitarian missions bringing relief to the worst war-affected zones. KI has been to more than a dozen troubled nations. Artis has been to Afghanistan six times and has brought $14 million worth of relief goods.

National Geographic

In one of those trips, a television crew from the National Geographic Channel was assigned to cover his odyssey, which was as usual, fraught with peril. With the Northern Alliance and the Taliban firing at each other from opposite mountaintops, the show's producer Gary Scurka got shot on the leg. Artis, once a Vietnam combat medic wounded in action and decorated for valor, helped treat his wounds.

"Afghanistan: In the Line of Fire" documented Artis and Laws with other team members crossing the Tajikistan/Afghanistan border, arriving at Northern Alliance headquarters in Khoja Bahauddin. Two days later, the two distributed 15 tons of wheat, five tons of cooking oil, sugar and 500 blankets five miles away in Hoji Molla. A brutal winter was approaching, and the 1,200 war refugees welcomed the woolen blankets as well as the grain.

A little over a week later, the team brought 30 tons of wheat, 2.5 tons of sugar, cooking oil, and 500 more blankets to Chah-Ab. Children in both camps received socks, hats, toothbrushes, pencils and notebooks.

Amid bombs from B-52s exploding in the distance, Artis carried a sack of wheat, mumbling something out of "Ol' Man River" in jest. They were behind Taliban lines, where both sides struggled for control of Northern Afghanistan.

"There is so much despair in those refugee camps, so much poverty, but their winter will be a little less harsh because of Ed Artis," Scurka concluded in his program.

For Artis' trouble, the Taliban put a $50,000 price on his head.

Knights in Mindanao

Fate brought Knightsbridge to the Philippines.

Artis, Walter Ratterman, an electrician from Pennsylvania, and a television producer who had been following Artis' caravan for three years were then cooling their heels in Thailand.

Container loads of relief goods had to be brought via Tashkent, Uzbekistan to several locations in Afghanistan. Because of road and bridge conditions, the freight needed to be broken up into smaller 10-ton truck loads for re-shipment.

Stuck in Bangkok while the containers were clearing customs in Tashkent, US Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a constant benefactor, suggested they give war-torn Southern Philippines a look-see. Of course, Mindanao met with Artis' approval: the place was an area of high adventure with direly needy war refugees.

Zamboanga, Pagadian, Basilan, Jolo, Cotabato, Pikit, Davao, Digos, Lanao del Norte, Iligan, Tawi-Tawi and more peaceful spots in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Palawan, Olongapo, Angeles and more recently, Bantay Bata in Manila were some of the places and NGOs which received the Knightsbridge largesse.

Artis said the need in these places "was so great" he has had to forego "high adventure" in some spots.

At the same time, the people showed so much appreciation, "I've never been happier," he said.

New scalpels

Knightsbridge is able to operate with the help of NGOs like Sharing Resources Worldwide, the Mormon Church, the Knights of Malta, Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and the Afghanistan Relief Organization.

Then there's key benefactor Recovered Medical Equipment for the Developing World or Remedy, a Yale-New Haven hospital not-for-profit organization.

Remedy collects unused medical supplies from US donor hospitals and donates them to Third World hospitals.

This is how it works: When a surgical package is opened in a US hospital, not all equipment is used. While there is no patient contact with the equipment, the supplies are resterilized before they are repacked and donated.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Parouq Hussin, who was a director in the Sulu hospital in the '60s, related this story:

In 1996, having just returned from exile, he had a reunion with former colleagues at the hospital. He held up a scalpel for inspection and thought they looked familiar. A surgical nurse said, "Doctor, these are the same scalpels you used 30 years ago. We just sharpen and resharpen them for the operating room."

Not anymore. Hussin and his old hospital recently received $5 million worth of Remedy supplies, including a Picker mammography machine and new scalpels, at last. The Philippine Marines in Jolo were also recipients of boxes and boxes of medicine.

Limited warehouse space

In Manila, Bantay Bata's executive director and television personality Tina Monzon-Palma complained conversely. "Sir Edward gave us tons and tons of stuff for which we had very limited warehouse space. It would be too costly to rent so we turned over electric hospital beds, wheelchairs and other hospital equipment to hospitals which needed them."

The hospitals who shared in the bounty were: Rizal Medical Center, the Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center in Tondo, the Parañaque Community Hospital and the Digos Provincial Hospital.

"Artis is doing wonders," Monzon-Palma said. "The hospitals are so grateful."

Dr. Lorelei Obed, medical director of the Parañaque Community Hospital, was ecstatic over the donation.

"It's the first time we have electric beds. All we ever had were manually operated ones," she said.

KI has also helped the Aguirre conjoined twins by securing visas and airfare from American Airlines. The twins and their mom traveled for free from the West Coast to New York for the operations which separated the 2-year-old boys. (Philippine Airlines Foundation provided airfare from Manila to the West Coast.)

UN roll call

In 1994, Artis and Laws were in Rwanda to help rescue 43 Catholic nuns, after a million Hutu and Tutsi tribals had been slaughtered.

Artis was in Nicaragua after a typhoon rendered tens of thousands homeless, bringing medicine from Hope for the Children.

One reporter noted: "Artis' passport looks like a UN roll call."

A television commentator for the Public Broadcasting Service described him best: "This modern-day knight has no house but an airplane seat, no shield but his bravado, no sword but his spirit."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5176 Series of 2004

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 23, 2004
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 4:7-16
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

One day some persons told Jesus what had occurred in the Temple: Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did.

"And those eighteen persons in Siloah who were crushed when the tower fell, do you think they were more guilty than all the others in Jerusalem? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

And Jesus continued with this story, "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener: 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for figs on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down, why should it use up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, so that I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down."

Commentary

When they still lacked a belief in the afterlife, Jews felt that good and evil had to be sorted out in this life. God rewarded the good people with good fortune in this life, and punished the wicked. But (to use the title of a recent book by a Jewish author), what are we to think "when bad things happen to good people?" Even granting a next life, how can a loving Father allow the innocent to suffer? What is the answer to the problem of evil?

I talk to myself about it this way: there is no answer to the problem of evil, but there is a response. The incarnation is God's response to human suffering. Unable to stay at a distance from human suffering, like a mother whose child is sick, God took on our human nature to be with us. When you visit a friend in the hospital you are not expected to bring answers with you, or explanations or theories; these in fact would infuriate a sick person. Instead you bring yourself, and that is your response to suffering. In Christ, God goes beyond this by plunging into human suffering and death. The Cross of Christ is the ultimate response to evil and suffering.

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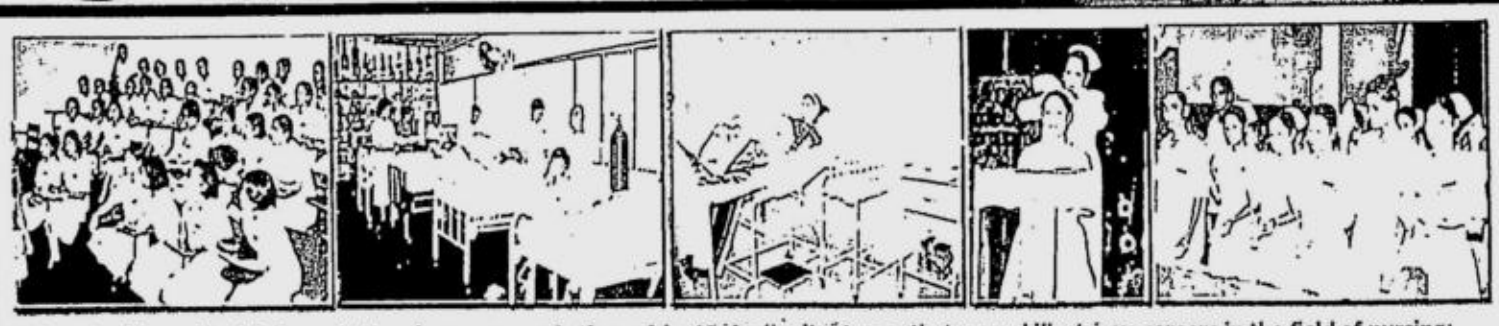
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY
Schools of Nursing



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- Franklin Barberan - 2nd Place in 2000
- Arlene LaTorre - 4th Place in 2002

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- Dr. George Cordero - (1981) Director, International Council of Nursing
- Eularito Tagalog - (1981) National President Occupational Health Nurse of the Philippines
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REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Finality of a decision in a criminal case—As to when a judgment of conviction attains finality is explained in Section 7 of Rule 120 of the 2000 Rules of Criminal Procedure: "A judgment of conviction may, upon motion of the accused, be modified or set aside before it becomes final or before appeal is perfected. Except where the death penalty is imposed, a judgment becomes final after the lapse of the period for perfecting an appeal, or when the sentence has been partially or totally satisfied or served, or when the accused has waived in writing his right to appeal, or has applied for probation." In the case before us, the accused-employee has escaped and refused to surrender to the proper authorities; thus, he is deemed to have abandoned his appeal. Consequently, the judgment against him has become final and executory. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, First Division, Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines, Inc. vs People, G. R. No. 147703, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. Vera

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RING ID
CARTOON LAUGH CACKLE REMIX 101442
CARTOON LAUGH TRICK MIX 101443
COFFIN MIDNIGHT MIX 101444
CREAKING DOOR SNEAKY REMIX 101445
DUNGEON CHAINS MIX 101446
VAMPIRE BATS FANG MIX 101447
WHISPERS DEMON REMIX 101448
WOLF HOWL MOON MIX 101449
JOKES
ARTIST
TITLE
RING ID
Dr. Vox Count Vlad 101292
Dr. Vox Eegor 101293
Dr. Vox Frankie 101294
Dr. Vox The Dark Lord 101295
Dr. Vox Wolfie 101296
Jon Santos Ang Ganda ng Costume Mo 101297
Jon Santos Bampira 101298
Jon Santos Costume na Mahirap Gawin 101299
Jon Santos Ekonomiyang Nakakatakot 101300
Jon Santos Halloween Disguise 101301
Jon Santos Happy Halloween From Ate V 101302
ARTIST
TITLE
RING ID
Giselle Sanchez Wolfing Utot 101580
Giselle Sanchez Natakot Ka Ba 101581
Giselle Sanchez Scary Sounds 101582
Giselle Sanchez Tacot Jokes 101583
Giselle Sanchez Tunog Takot 101584
JM Rodriguez Favorito Horror Show 101585
JM Rodriguez Tumakbo Ka Na 101586
JM Rodriguez 7 Days 101587
JM Rodriguez Don't Be Afraid 101588
JM Rodriguez Backmask 101589
JM Rodriguez Spirit of the Glass 101590
CELEBRITY GREETINGS
ARTIST
TITLE
RING ID
Katya Santos Trick or Treat 101565
Jennifer Rosendhal Boo Day 101566
Gwen Garci I've Cast A Spell 101567
Myles Hernandez Candylicious Halloween 101568
TO GET A CALLER RINGTUNE
RING ADD 101565
Text RING ADD <Ring ID>
286
Send to 286
Listen b4 u download!
logos
To download, text LOGO <KEYWORD> and send to 286 ex. LOGO BLACKCAT
picture messages
To download, text PIC <KEYWORD> and send to 286 ex. PIC HAUNTED
Creepy Logos & Pic Messages
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TITLE
KEYWORD
Witch's Cackle CACKLE
Eerie Wind Chimes CHIMES
Demonic Whisper DEMONWHISPER
Secret Door DOOR
Evil Chant EVILCHANT
Ghost GHOST
Creature's Growl GROWL
Heartbeat HEARTBEAT
Sinister Laugh LAUGH
Scream SCREAM
Laughing Troll TROLL
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WOLFPAC

Jun to woo Miriam all over again–for GMA tax plan

From page A1

sweet-talking his wife to support the President's proposed eight new taxes and tax-reform measures?

Santiago is the husband of feisty, independent-minded Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who ran under the administration's K4 senatorial slate in the May election.

He laughed when asked if he needed to convince his wife to vote for the tax measures. He said he could not commit the senator's vote one way or the other.

• "How can you commit her? It's like committing that a typhoon will not pass," Secretary Santiago said.

"My job is not to lobby (for Malacañang)," he said. "My job is to advise on how to enhance and increase the revenues of the government. It could be through tax measures, proper enforcement of customs laws and proper collection of revenues."

Santiago served in the Bureau of Customs from 1975 to 1991 and as interior undersecretary from 1999 to 2001.

SANTIAGO: Pillow talk

Coordinate with legislators

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Secretary Santiago's job has a wide scope including coordinating with legislators on the President's tax measures and tax reform program.

"You know in pushing the revenue measures, it's important to have good coordination with the legislators," Bunye said when asked if Senator Santiago would be expected to vote for the President's tax measures with the appointment of her husband to the Cabinet.

Bunye denied that his appointment was an accommodation for Senator Santiago, who used to be a staunch ally of detained President Joseph Estrada. She joined Ms Arroyo early this year.

"The President believes that we should pursue revenue measures for our economic recovery and the appointment of an assistant or a Cabinet member for this purpose is meant to help implement the tax reform program," he said.

Prized witness

Bunye also defended the appointment of Ferdinand Mahusay, brother of a controversial whistle-blower against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, as a presidential assistant for Region 9.

Mahusay's brother Eugenio or "Udong" was the prized witness of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against Arroyo's alleged Jose Pidal accounts last year.

Udong was then the First Gentleman's messenger and godson. After executing an affidavit that Arroyo indeed owned the Pidal bank accounts, Udong was spirited out of a safehouse in a dramatic "rescue" by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor.

"We do not question the prerogative of the President. She knows the overall picture, she knows her programs and the capability of her appointees to help implement her programs," Bunye said.

Palace defends 'superbody'

From page A1

to "network" with various groups, including peasants and anti-government forces, and expressed concern that its tasks would overlap with those of other regular departments.

The creation of the OEA came about despite an earlier presidential order for the abolition of redundant offices and a freeze on the hiring of new government personnel.

GMA explains

"First of all, let me clarify that it's not a superbody," Ms Arroyo said in a press conference, reacting to the INQUIRER story. "In fact, it is taking the place of about three or more agencies that have been abolished."

The abolished offices included those of the Presidential Assistants for Regional Concerns (Pareco), the Office of Special Concerns and the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Regional Concerns, which Ms Arroyo said was different from the Pareco.

"See? All of those were abolished so that's why they were streamlined into the OEA," she said.

Presidential Adviser on External Affairs Edgardo Pamintuan earlier said his office absorbed 50 presidential assistants and their staff and that he would need 50 more personnel to deploy all over the country.

2 attachés needed

Ms Arroyo also justified the appointment of an OEA political attaché to the United States despite the existence of a Philippine embassy there. The appointee is Alex Cauguiran, who hails from the President's home province of Pampanga.

"I may even need two (political attachés) because we have three-and-a-half million Filipinos there. We will need one in the East Coast, one in the West Coast," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the political attaché's work would not conflict with the functions of Vice President Noli de Castro as presidential adviser for Overseas Filipino Workers.

"His line function is on housing so he's just advising (on OFW matters). He doesn't have a staff specific to overseas Filipinos," Ms Arroyo said.

She said she transferred the Commission on Overseas Filipinos from the Department of Foreign Affairs to her office to make its work more meaningful.

"I have to find out what they've been doing all this time because the only thing I know they've been doing is having this annual award for outstanding Filipinos ... but there are some specific programs we'd like to do that's not been done," she said.

Ms Arroyo designated the head of the COF as a Cabinet rank secretary, but said she would announce the appointee in due time.

Duplications

She saw no conflict between her "government reengineering program" and her creation of the new office.

FIGHTING POVERTY
President Macapagal-Arroyo is all smiles as she presides over a meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and NAPC Secretary Imelda Nicolas. VAL HANDUMON

In Executive Order No. 366, which orders a strategic review of government agencies for rationalization, Ms Arroyo ordered the abolition of functions that "duplicate or unnecessarily overlap" with programs of other government agencies.

"You know, there were three different offices. Each one had its own undersecretary, assistant secretary, budget officer, secretary, executive assistant," she explained. "Basically when you merge, the ones that you will save money on are really the administrative and finance and secretarial works, drivers. Those are the ones that you save on, not the ones that are doing specific technical work."

Opposition senators branded the creation of the OEA, as well as the appointment of some people to new government posts, as part of Ms Arroyo's "political accommodation."

"But I can also add that these positions I think are more honorific than substantial so in that respect, probably, it's a give-away," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told reporters.

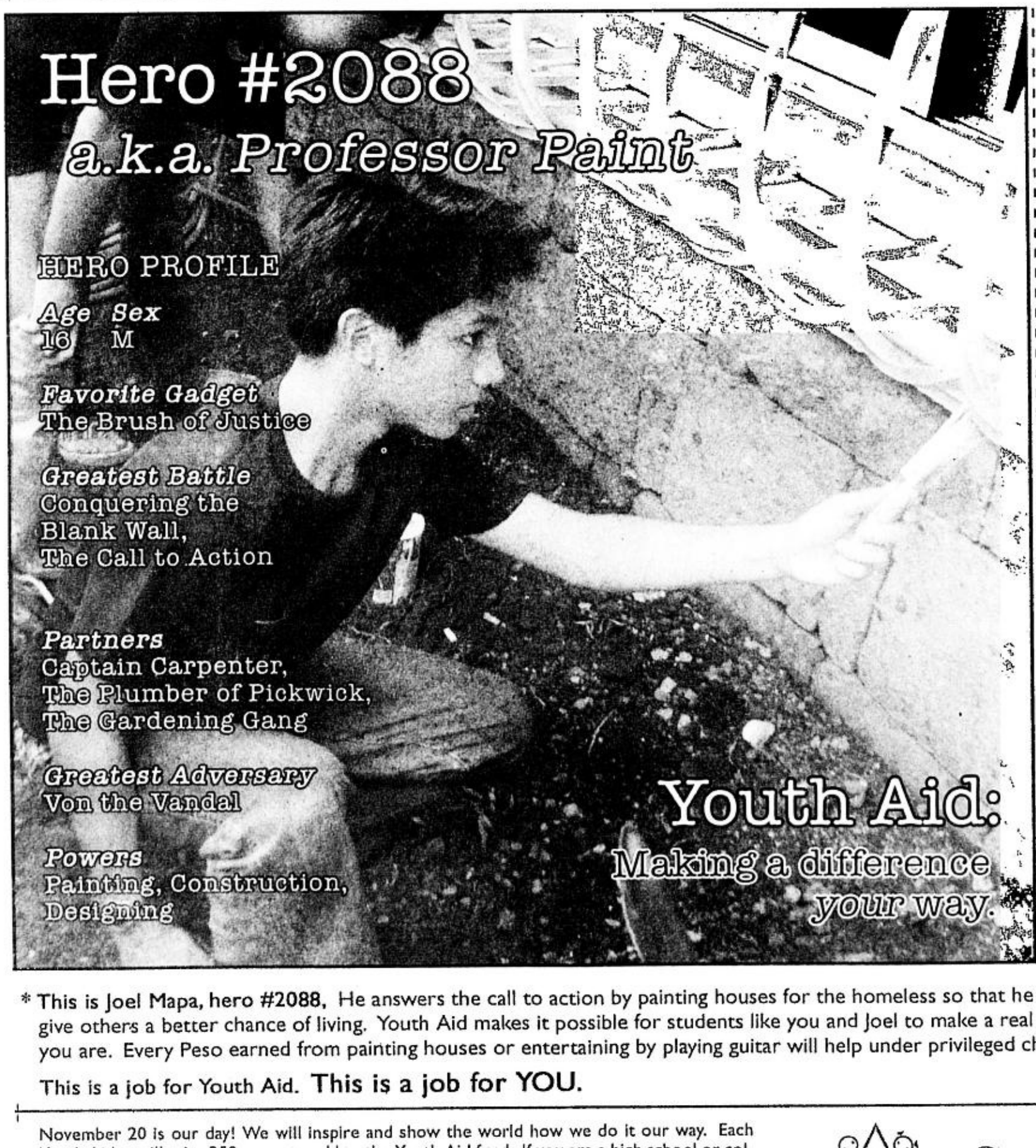
"These are political appointments to accommodate people for political considerations," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, referring to the appointment of Mahusay, whose brother Udong had initially testified in the Lacson exposé on the Jose Pidal account.

Migrante unconvinced

The largest organization of overseas Filipino workers and their families said they did not expect that the creation of the OEA would be any good for the migrant workers sector.

Migrante International said some of Ms Arroyo's new appointees worked for her candidacy in the last elections.

Migrante secretary general Maita Santiago said in a telephone interview that Poe Gratela, who is expected to head the OEA's group for OFWs, had long been estranged from the organization. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora*



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Signature / Date: _____

CONSENT SIGNATURES:
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11th Philippine Diabetes Congress

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11th PHILIPPINE DIABETES CONGRESS
with the theme:

DIABETES IS A HEART DISEASE

OCTOBER 17, 2004 AT 7:30 IN THE MORNING AT MANDALUYONG GYM

MESSAGE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

A sound and healthy citizenry is a key to a healthy society. To move the country forward we need productive and competitive members of society that will help push forth our agenda on national development. In the fight against diabetes, now a growing health problem in the country, we need to employ every possible measure for its prevention and treatment. The 11th Philippine Diabetes Congress underscores the concern and commitment of the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics to making the public more aware of diabetes as a serious disease that needs immediate and proper medical attention.

The theme "Diabetes is a Heart Disease" should give the public a better understanding of the cause and the various stages of diabetes to make them better equipped in dealing with this growing health problem.

I congratulate the organizers for staging this annual forum aimed at addressing the critical issues and concerns on the alarming spread of diabetes in the country. The health of the Filipino is high in the agenda of my Administration and all efforts and initiatives in this direction are well-appreciated.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

The whole world of today is suffering from the disease of lifestyle - obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, cigarette addiction - all of which end up in heart attacks, strokes, limb amputations. More than half of the mortality in civilized countries comes from cardiovascular events. The worst enemy of humankind today is a distorted lifestyle hiding behind the curtain of human rights.

Our children are growing up in such a permissive environment and diabetes and hypertension are rapidly overtaking them. Parents in our society have the distinct responsibility of securing the future of their children through proper lifestyle, exercise and healthy food intake. The future will have no one else to blame except parents when the Philippines becomes swallowed up in this epidemic.

Love your children, love your country, live lives that will benefit the future. Remember that the diabetics of tomorrow will come from the children of today.

RICARDO E. FERNANDO, MD, FPCP
Chairman
Consortium of Governmen Diabetes Clinics

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics on the holding of the 11th Philippine Diabetes Congress entitled, "Diabetes is a Heart Disease". I am indeed grateful for your support in our effort to improve the management and treatment of diabetes by continuously prompting healthy lifestyle habits to our people.

The Department of Health commends you as an efficient and dedicated group of health care providers ever responsive to the needs of our diabetic and their relatives.

Lets us continue to work together and strive to alleviate the plight of Filipino diabetics in the country. I wish your continued success in all your future endeavors.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc.
Secretary of Health

HISTORY OF THE CONSORTIUM OF GOVERNMENT DIABETES CLINICS
By Aracell A. Panelo, MD, MS
Vice-Chairman, Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinic

1989 The UE-Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation was established.

Offered:
1. MS in Internal Medicine major in Diabetes to internist.
2. Non-MS Program – originally for non-internist who work in the Department of Health and local government units-run hospitals.

1990 Officially adopted the policy to help upgrade diabetes care in government hospitals.

- It framed out its faculty members in Metro Manila DOH-run hospitals with existing diabetes clinics but without trained personnel.

1992 Encouraged students from the private sector to volunteer their services to set up diabetes clinic in the government-run hospital in their area.

- First meeting of the members of the consortium at East Avenue Medical Center. From then on, the members agreed to meet regularly and to take turn in hosting the meetings. When it was San Lazaro Hospital's turn to host the meeting, the members decided to fully organized and they elected Dr. Virgilio Gonzales as their first president.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To assist the DOH promulgate policies on diabetes control/ prevention/ treatment.
2. To prepare uniform learning materials for all diabetes patients of all members government and non-government diabetes clinics.
3. To create network referral system for diabetes complications among patients of all diabetes clinics.
4. To help train the staff of the different DOH diabetes clinics on diabetes care
5. To promote the creation of "cooperatives" among the patients of the different diabetes clinics so that they can avail of cheaper medications / laboratory tests.

Meanwhile the Department of Health Secretary Juan Flavier launched a Search for Innovative Program in the DOH retained hospitals. The Amang Rodriguez Medical Center Diabetes Clinic, backed up by the diabetes organization called the DOERS, was chosen to be an innovative program for people empowerment; it was a good model for its preventive program in the hospitals. Among other innovative programs, the diabetic clinic and its clubs were instrumental in setting "Hospitals as Center of Wellness (HCWP)". The first program Manager was the Chief of Hospital of the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, Dr. Ruben Flores.

The idea of the First Philippine Diabetes Congress in 1994 was hatched through the cooperation of the Consortium and the HCWP. The theme was *"Metamis na Pagkakaisa"*. From then on the congress was set on the third Sunday of November, close to the celebration of the World Diabetes Day.

During the first congress, Secretary Juan Flavier announced the formulation of the Diabetes Control Program of the government. He mandated among others all DOH retained hospitals to set up diabetes clinic.

Asan off-shoot, the UE-ISDFI opened its doors to all the doctors, nurses and nutritionists for training diabetes care. For updates, it cooperated with the Non-Communicable Disease Sector of DOH to conduct workshops for government diabetes health workers annually, two days before the congress. In one of the meetings, it was proposed that the regional consortium be set up. At the moment, the following chapters are active: NCR, Visayas, Northern Luzon. The others, Mindanao and Southern Luzon are still actively trying to break the barrier of distance.

DIABETES IS A HEART DISEASE
By Ricardo E. Fernando, MD

Diabetes has been a nagging public health problem in the past few decades and in spite of the American Diabetes Association, European Association for the Study on Diabetes, International Diabetes Federation and World Health Organization effort, has continued in epidemic proportions involving most of the civilized and developing countries of the world. Its number one killer is coronary heart disease.

Heart by-pass and angioplasties are in the increase. The recognized propagator is lifestyle change and its notorious partner is central or visceral obesity. These factors have long since been identified, hiding behind the curtain of human rights.

Why these and other risk factors are tolerated and pampered in societies where genius abounds goes beyond the boundaries of my simple imagination. Men who run politics and economies and business appear to be willing to sacrifice the future of their children and their families and the country because of very selfish reason.

The heart of the whole problem centers on parents of our families – the concern for the welfare of the young. For who would think of future obesity and hypertension and heart disease and diabetes as he looks at three to six month old children just starting to feed? We wait for the children to go to school and blame the teachers for unhealthy eating habits!! We allow unhealthy fast foods to victimize our young kids, never raising a finger to prevent the ultimate victory of what is wrong? Adults rarely exert effort to present themselves as ideal examples of healthy lifestyle! Where do we want our country to wind up? 100% obesity, 100% diabetes and hypertension, expected of the richest and most powerful country in the world?

Widespread obesity and hypertension is not a laughing matter anymore. Government should pay closer and more serious attention to the health of its citizenry, and families should pay closer attention to the future of their offspring. Only then can we expect a drop in the incidence of people unnecessarily dying from heart attacks.

For the advances we have made in the field of the various sciences, we are allowing distorted lifestyle to eat away the very foundations of our nation's health.

PHILIPPINES ASSOCIATION OF DIABETES EDUCATORS

INVITES YOU TO THE

4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WORLD DAY DIABETES

NOVEMBER 14, 2004 / 7:00 IN THE MORNING

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SIGLA

29 July 2004

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR
No. 242, s. 2004

TO : THE UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, CHD/BUREAU/SERVICE PROJECT/PROGRAM DIRECTORS, MEDICAL CENTER CHIEFS OF SPECIALAPECIALTY HOSPITALS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD, PRESIDENT OF THE PHIC AND OTHER CONCERNED.

SUBJECT: 11th Philippine Diabetes Congress of the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics.

The Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics, this Department will spearhead the 11th Philippine Diabetes Congress on October 17, 2004 at 7:30 in the morning at the Mandaluyong Sports Complex.

Attached is a copy of the letter dated July 12, 2004 from the Chairman, Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics, for ready reference.

Attendance to the said activity whether on official time or official business is delegated to the Head of Offices concerned per item no. 1 of the Department Order No. 123-F s. 2000.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is desired.

By authority of the Secretary of Health:

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
GRACIA ELIZABETH M. L...
CHIEF, RECORDS SECTION

JUANITO G. RUBIO, MD, MHA, FACOG, CESO II
Assistant Secretary
Management Support Services Cluster

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DIABETICS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics does not endorse any commercial ampalaya concoction for the use of its members. There is no concrete evidence that these preparations whether in tablet, capsule or tea can control diabetes. The public is being advised to be careful in the use of such

Study: Unhealthy lifestyle can lead to premature death

Judging by present trends, unhealthy lifestyle will likely emerge as one of the leading causes of premature death, especially among Americans, a study says.

Results of the study done by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in March, 2004 showed that unhealthy habits account for 39 percent of deaths in the United States.

Habits including smoking, poor diet, and insufficient exercise should be avoided as much as possible, according to James Marks, one of the researchers of the study.

Predictably, the situation in the Philippines is nothing different. Many Filipinos have embraced the American culture, most notably its fondness for smoking and fast food.

Dr. Joy Fontanilla, an endocrinology consultant at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, said, "Urbanization has led to a culture of overeating and under-exercising, and hence, a ballooning epidemic of obesity."

But the problem does not stop there. Even more dangerous than obesity, type 2 diabetes is a chronic, progressive disease associated with high levels of glucose in the bloodstream (hyperglycemia).

"Excessive calorie intake, coupled with couch-potato lifestyle, may result in obesity and diabetes. Genetic predisposition is another factor that can lead to type 2 diabetes."

A person with type 2 diabetes runs a high risk of developing serious complications such as damage to the eyes, limbs, kidney and heart.

It is, therefore, good news that effective treatment modalities are now available for the management of diabetes, like a combination therapy. According to Fontanilla, in the old days, management of diabetes was limited to insulin and oral medications such as the sulfonylureas.

"Sulfonylureas cause your pancreas to secrete more insulin. Eventually, since diabetes is a progressive disease, the pancreas gets exhausted and can no longer produce insulin. By that time, sulfonylureas would no longer be effective. You would be left with insulin as the only alternative treatment," she explained.

But thanks to science, more medications for diabetes have become available in the last decade. The development of a two-in-one drug combining rosiglitazone which saves the pancreas from exhaustion and metformin which helps prevent the liver from putting out too much sugar, is considered a boon.

"These medications complement each other. When given together, they can produce greater reductions in blood sugar than when given alone," said Fontanilla.

Clinical trials have proven the efficacy of combining the power of rosiglitazone and metformin. The EMPIRE (Escalation of the Metformin versus the Initiation of Rosiglitazone Early) study showed that more patients reached their targeted blood sugar levels with the early addition of rosiglitazone to metformin compared to those who received the maximum dose of metformin alone.

Together with proper diet and exercise, combination therapy will greatly help patients in achieving their target blood sugar levels. Most importantly, combination therapy can prevent the development of serious complications.

Patients with type 2 diabetes should consult their doctors to learn more about new treatments that could potentially put a stop to the progression of their disease.

6th Ricardo E. Fernando Professional Lecture

Morning Session

7:00 – 8:30 am	*Registration*
8:30 am	*Opening of Exhibits*
9:45 am	*Invocation* **Luinio S. Tongson, MD** *Philippine National Anthem* *I.S.D.F.I. Hymn* **Georgina G. Valdecañas, MD** *Welcome Remarks* **Edwin E. Liwanag, MD, MS** *Convention Chair*
10:00 am	*Coffee Break* *Introduction of the 6th R.E.F. Professorial Lecturer* **Aracell A. Panelo, MD, MS** *Executive Director, UERMMMC – ISDFI*
10:15 – 11:30 am	*6th R.E.F. Professorial Lecture* **Insulin Resistance, Compensatory Hyperinsulinemia & Cardiovascular Disease** *Speaker:* **Prof. Gerald M. Reaven, MD**
11:30 – 12:00 nn	*Open Forum*
12:00 nn	*Awarding of Medal*

Afternoon Session

12:00 – 1:30 pm	*Lunch Break* *Business Meeting* **Richard Elwyn V. Fernando, MD, MS** *President, UE – ISDFI Alumni*
1:30 – 3:00 pm	*Alumni Workshop* *Coffee Break*
3:00 pm	*Closing Remarks* **Ricardo E. Fernando, MD, FPCP, FPSEM** *Chairman & President, UERMMMC – ISDFI*

Leorino M. Sobrepeña, MD, MS
EMCEE

Evening Session
7:00 pm — *6th Annual Homecoming & Fellowship Night*

UERMMMC – Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc.
Annual Convention
"6th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture"
October 20, 2004 (Saturday)
[illegible] Ballroom II (Level II)
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

Lecturer: Gerald M. Reaven, MD from Stanford Medical Center, Stanford, California
Topic: Insulin Resistance, Compensatory Hyperinsulinemia & Cardiovascular Disease
Registration Fees:

Participants	Before Oct. 16, 2004	After Oct. 16, 2004 On Site Registration
UERM-ISDFI Alumni	Php 1,200.00	Php 1,500.00
Non-UERM-ISDFI Alumni	Php. 800.00*	Php. 1,200.00*

**Inclusive of Convention Kit & AM Snack Only (Morning Session Only [8 am to 12])*

Secretariat: 5/F Admin Bldg., UERMMMC, Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
Tel. #s. 713-3313 / 716-9781 *Telefax #.* 713-3307

Vignettes of History: Prevention of Diabetes
By Ricardo E. Fernando, MD, FPCP, FPSEM

Ever since I arrived in the Philippine in 1957 I had always carried the flag of DIABETES PREVENTION in the fore front.

I am not and have been impressed by diabetes prevention programs here and in other countries since these have persistently targeted adults and pre – diabetics (Primary Prevention).

From the beginning of my crusade here in the Philippines – in clinic, school and through the National Diabetes Commission, I have carried the slogan "The diabetics of tomorrow will come from the children of today" (PRIMODIAL PREVENTION) – a concept that has been persistently pushed by my fellows and graduates of the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. Not very dramatic, not very much appealing to the general population.

But today, 25 years later, 25 to 50 or more pounds later, as we face a world – wide calamity issuing from a distorted lifestyle, product of a perverse civilization hiding behind the curtain of "human rights", my original drive has hopefully found international attention in the Editorial of DIABETOLOGIA 2004 volume 47, page 1339 – 42 by Dr. EAM Gale of the United Kingdom – "The war must be fought and won in the nursery and in the infant school! Failing this, pharmaceuticals will increasingly form part of our routine survival kit for life on planet EARTH".

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UK agrees to move troops to dangerous areas in Iraq

LONDON—Britain agreed on Thursday to send troops to dangerous areas near Baghdad, a politically perilous step for Prime Minister Tony Blair who could face a sharp backlash if casualty rates start rising.

Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said about 850 personnel would move north for a period of weeks not months to allow US troops to tackle insurgents elsewhere in Iraq, amid suggestions that an onslaught on rebel-dominated Fallujah is not far off.

"This deployment is a vital part of the process of creating the right conditions for the Iraqi elections to take place in January," he told parliament.

US military chiefs asked UK forces to move to volatile areas near Baghdad to free up American troops to tackle hotspots like Fallujah before the planned elections.

"We share... a common goal of creating a secure and stable Iraq where men, women and children in towns like Fallujah can feel safe from foreign terrorists," Hoon said.

Politicians, many in Blair's Labor party, are aghast at the prospect of British troops being moved to higher-risk areas.

Until now, the British have been concentrated in a relatively quiet zone of southern Iraq around the city of Basra.

Since the Iraq war began, 68 British troops have been killed compared with more than 1,000 Americans.

In the United States, the White House welcomed London's troops decision and praised "tremendous sacrifices" made by Britain and other countries in the US-led coalition in Iraq.

But a senior US administration official dismissed as "preposterous" suggestions by Blair critics that the British troops redeployment was linked to President George W. Bush's reelection bid on Nov. 2.

Some of Blair's domestic critics have sharply attacked him.

"Doesn't he think that it is slightly ironic that the American president and his vice president who both refused to face the muck and bullets in Vietnam are now calling on British forces to bail them out?" asked Labor veteran Dennis Skinner.

Officials insist the US electoral timetable has nothing to do with the redeployment. Nonetheless, if the British and Iraqi civilian fatality count rises, Blair will suffer politically with a British election expected in May next year.

Blair biographer Philip Stephens said the move had again shown the capacity of Iraq to wreck any efforts to refocus debate on the domestic politics that decide UK elections.

BLAIR: Taking a perilous step

"If those British troops were to come under sustained attack and suffer heavy casualties, then I think there will be another political price to pay for Tony Blair," Stephens said. *Reuters*

Iran considers EU's 'last chance' offer on nuke bid

VIENNA—Iran will consider a proposal by the European Union to receive nuclear technology if it abandons its uranium enrichment program but has not yet agreed to any deal, an Iranian official said on Thursday.

"It is just at the initial stage. The matter has to be considered on both sides," Sirius Naseri, a member of the Iranian delegation at a meeting with senior French, British and German officials, told reporters.

"What has been agreed is that we will continue the dialogue he said outside the French mission to the United Nations, adding that the EU trio had presented their offer in "more or less clear terms."

If Iran rejects the EU offer, diplomats say most European nations will back US demands that Tehran be reported to the UN Security Council for possible economic sanctions when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meets in November.

Asked if Iran was afraid of being reported to the Security Council, Naseri said only: "We are not threatening each other."

Diplomats said the EU's "big three" had the reluctant blessing of the United States in making the offer, despite Washington's belief that Iran was using talks with the EU to buy time to acquire the capability to build a nuclear bomb.

"At this point Iranian compliance doesn't seem likely... based on Iran's history and their current expressions and the things that they're saying and doing right now," US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said on Wednesday.

Iran maintains its nuclear program is only for power generation and that it will never give up uranium enrichment—a process that can be used to make fuel for nuclear reactors or material for atom bombs.

The IAEA, the UN atomic watchdog body, has been investigating Iran's nuclear program for more than two years. *Reuters*

Castro breaks knee in fall

HAVANA—Cuban President Fidel Castro tripped and shattered a kneecap in a tumble captured on live television that raised new questions about the political future of the communist-run country he has led for 45 years.

Castro, 78, stumbled on a step and fell on his left knee on Wednesday night as he returned to his seat after a graduation ceremony speech at the mausoleum holding the remains of fellow revolutionary Che Guevara at Santa Clara in central Cuba.

Helped to a chair, he soon recovered and asked for a microphone to reassure the stunned crowd of 30,000, some of whom burst into tears, that he was "intact" and would be able to continue working even in a plaster cast.

A brief official statement said Castro broke his left knee and suffered a hair-line fracture in his right arm. Castro wanted the country to know "he is in condition to continue attending to fundamental issues in close cooperation with the leadership" of the ruling Communist Party, it said.

In a letter to the Cuban people read on the evening news, Castro said his kneecap had broken into eight pieces and he had undergone a three-hour operation to rebuild it with titanium thread. His left leg was in plaster and his right arm in a sling, he said. *Reuters*

US soldier draws 8 years for Abu Ghraib abuse

ARTIST'S rendition of S/Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick II. AP

BAGHDAD—A military judge jailed a US army sergeant, described in court as a typical all-American boy, for eight years on Thursday for sexually and physically abusing Iraqi prisoners.

The sentence for S/Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, 38, is by far the toughest of those handed down to three soldiers now convicted over abuses at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

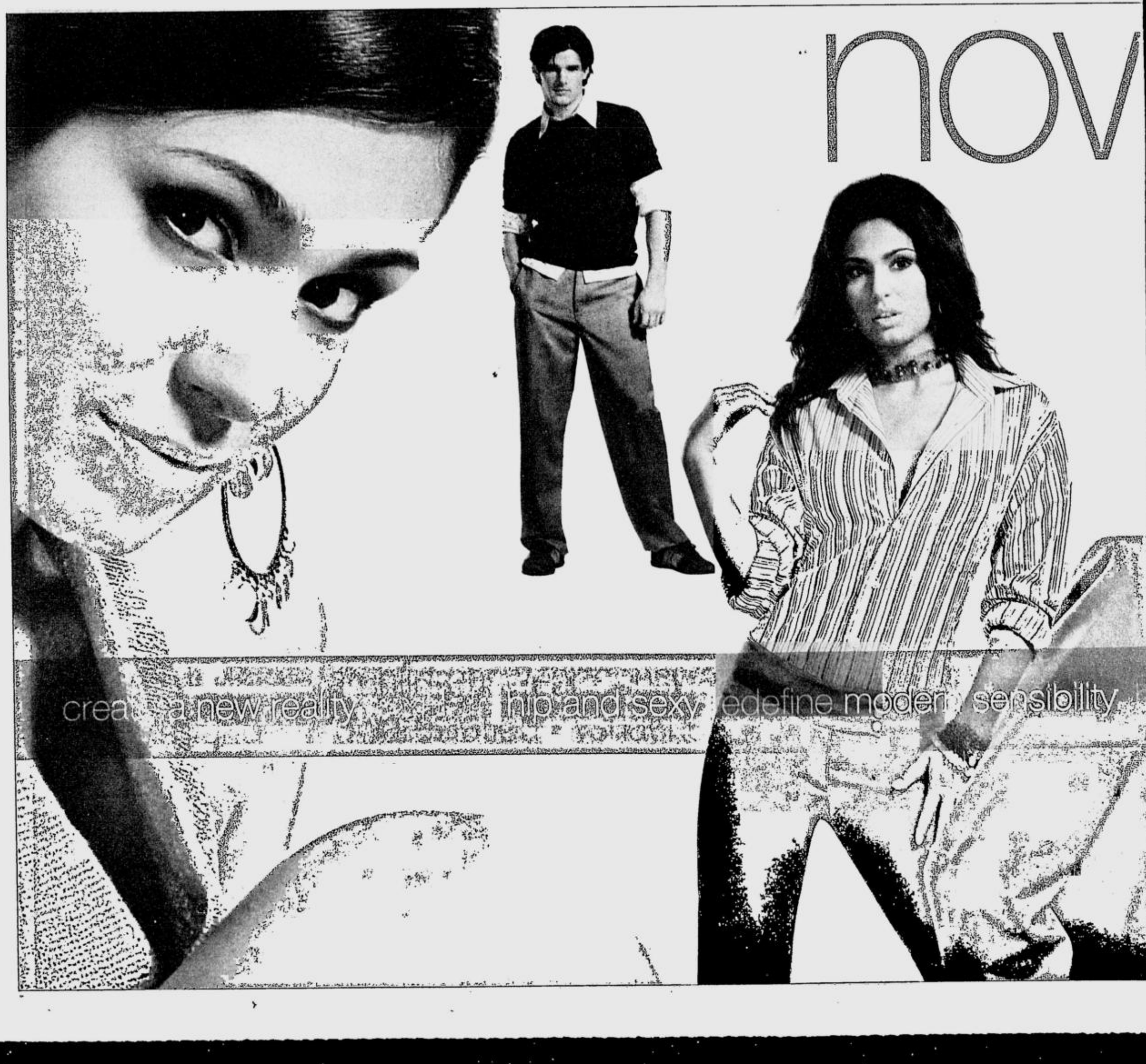
Photos of naked prisoners being taunted and humiliated at the jail outraged the world when they were published in April.

Frederick, who sat impassively through the two-day court martial at a US base in Baghdad, appeared shaken and looked at the floor after judge Col. James Pohl announced his verdict, which included a dishonorable discharge and a demotion.

Defense counsel Gary Myers said the sentence was excessive and he would appeal.

Frederick, the most senior soldier indicted in the scandal, pleaded guilty to five charges that included assault, committing an indecent act and dereliction of duty.

The church-going father of two, who was a prison guard in civilian life, admitted helping tie wires to the fingers and penis of one prisoner and telling him he could be electrocuted, and forcing three hooded detainees to masturbate. *Reuters*



US voters seen dissatisfied with Bush, uneasy on Kerry

WASHINGTON—Many US voters are dissatisfied with President George W. Bush's job performance but uneasy about Democrat John Kerry's ability to protect the nation, according to an Associated Press poll that found the two presidential candidates locked in a tie.

"The country is looking for a real leader—an FDR or a Kennedy," said Warren Hutchinson, an independent from Massachusetts who leans toward Kerry. "There don't seem to be any on the horizon."

Many voters believe Bush is better qualified to protect the country—an important attribute for an electorate very focused on national security. A majority consider Kerry indecisive, less solid on national security. But Kerry is seen as stronger on creating jobs.

Neither candidate has been able to gain a clear advantage. In the survey of 976 likely voters, Democrats Kerry and Sen. John Edwards had 49 percent, compared to 46 percent for Republicans Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. That's within the margin of error of 3 percentage points for the poll conducted Oct. 18-20.

Many polls out recently show the race even, and some show Bush slightly up.

Almost one in five, 17 percent, of voters remain the target of nonstop campaigning by Bush and Kerry, the AP-Ipsos poll found. These persuadable voters say they're undecided or are tentatively backing a candidate while remaining open to changing their minds.

They are more likely than others to disapprove of Bush's job performance and believe invading Iraq was a mistake. And they are more likely than other voters to believe the nation is on the wrong track, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

More in this group lean toward Kerry than Bush. But persuadable voters backing Kerry are more likely to switch sides than those backing Bush and they're more likely to trust Bush than Kerry to protect the nation.

"Kerry spent his whole time in the debates saying, 'your president has not done this or done that,' instead of saying what he would do as president," said Laurie Anusvkiewicz, a businesswoman from Beckley, West Virginia.

Some surveys have found that a majority of voters saying they're concerned about the risks of changing presidents at a time of terrorist threats and war.

"I'm pretty sure I'll vote for Kerry," said Mary Anne Connolly of Middletowne, New Jersey. "It's more that I don't want Bush. I'm still not comfortable with Kerry. I'm not sure he's real strong on foreign policy."

Despite doubts about Kerry on national security and strength of leadership, Bush hasn't been able to pull away from the Democrat.

Less than half of likely voters in the AP-Ipsos poll, 47 percent, approve of Bush's job performance. A rating below 50 percent spells trouble for any incumbent, and the president hasn't been above that threshold since before the first debate. *AP*

BIRD FLU CARRIERS
Bengali tigers prowl at the Sriracha Tiger Zoo in Chonburi province, Thailand. Thai authorities may cull five more sick tigers at a private zoo suspected of having bird flu after 18 others were killed and another 42 died. AP

A minute's silence for slain UK girl

LONDON—A minute's silence will be held in Nottingham, central England, on Friday in memory of murdered teenage schoolgirl Danielle Beccan.

Family members, Danielle's school friends and members of the public will stop at 12:30 p.m. to remember the 14-year-old, who was shot dead by bullets fired from a car as she walked home from a funfair on Oct. 9.

The attack was apparently motiveless and two men, Mark Kelly, 20, and Junior Andrews, 23, have been charged with the murder.

Nottingham's city council leader Jon Collins said the service would also ask residents to stand up against gun crime.

Nottingham has experienced a wave of violence in recent years involving firearms, which has been blamed mainly on drug gangs.

"It's important that people beyond Nottingham understand the depth of feeling and anger in the city at this senseless act of violence against an innocent person," Collins said. *Reuters*

US poll projected to cost record $3.9B

WASHINGTON—If anything, democracy does not come cheap. The 2004 elections that involve not only the frenzied presidential race but hundreds of congressional races will cost Americans a record $3.9 billion, according to new projections released here by campaign finance monitors.

And that will not include money spent on gubernatorial and other local contests, as well on a plethora of political referendums held by individual states on issues ranging from gay marriage to parental notifications about teenage pregnancies.

The nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics said, in a report released Thursday, the estimated costs represented a 30 percent increase over the $3 billion that are believed to have been spent on federal elections four years ago.

"The 2004 presidential and congressional elections will shatter previous records for spending, and the biggest reason is the increase in giving by individuals to candidates and parties," observed Larry Noble, executive director of the think tank.

The presidential race alone, fueled by massive spending by President George W. Bush and his Democratic rival, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, their respective parties and a multitude of support groups, will cost an unprecedented $1.2 billion or more, the report pointed out.

So far, the Bush campaign has spent a little over $278 million, producing television and other media advertisements, airing them in battleground states, paying pollsters, campaign strategists and crisscrossing the country.

It has an additional nearly $152 million on hand to spend on the home stretch of the race that will conclude on Nov. 2.

Kerry's war chest, according to the center, is a little more modest, but still will put to shame any of the candidates that ran for the White House in 1976.

The Democratic hopeful has spent so far more than $197.5 million and has $113.5 million in cash on hand to continue buying advertising time and stump in states he believes he can win. *AFP*

Israel kills top Hamas bomb maker

GAZA—Israel killed the top bomb maker of the Hamas Islamic militant group in a Gaza Strip air strike on Thursday, days before a key parliamentary vote on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to quit the occupied territory.

The assassination of Adnan al-Ghoul, number two in the Hamas military wing and near the top of Israel's most wanted list since 1987, dealt a major blow to Hamas.

It could also help Sharon counter far-right opponents of his pullout plan, who say it would reward Palestinian attacks.

The Army said it targeted Ghoul, 45. He had survived several previous assassination attempts, including a bid to kill him with a poisoned cup of coffee. He lost two sons in earlier Israeli attacks.

A missile from an unmanned Israeli drone slammed into Ghoul's car in Gaza City, killing him and an aide, witnesses said. Militants from Hamas, sworn to destroying Israel, vowed suicide bombings in revenge.

Ghoul's death was the biggest blow to Hamas since Israel killed Gaza leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi in April.

As well as being the top bomb maker for Hamas, Ghoul was also known as the "Father of the Qassam"—a makeshift rocket fired into Israel and Jewish settlements that has become an increasing headache for Sharon ahead of the planned withdrawal.

The killing of two Israeli toddlers on Sept 29 in a Qassam attack triggered the biggest offensive into Gaza in the past four years of conflict. More than 100 Palestinians were killed and three Israelis also died.

To avenge Ghoul's killing, Hamas fired off salvoes of rockets and mortar bombs toward Israeli targets.

"Death is coming to the enemies," said the group's armed wing, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades. *Reuters*

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OPINION

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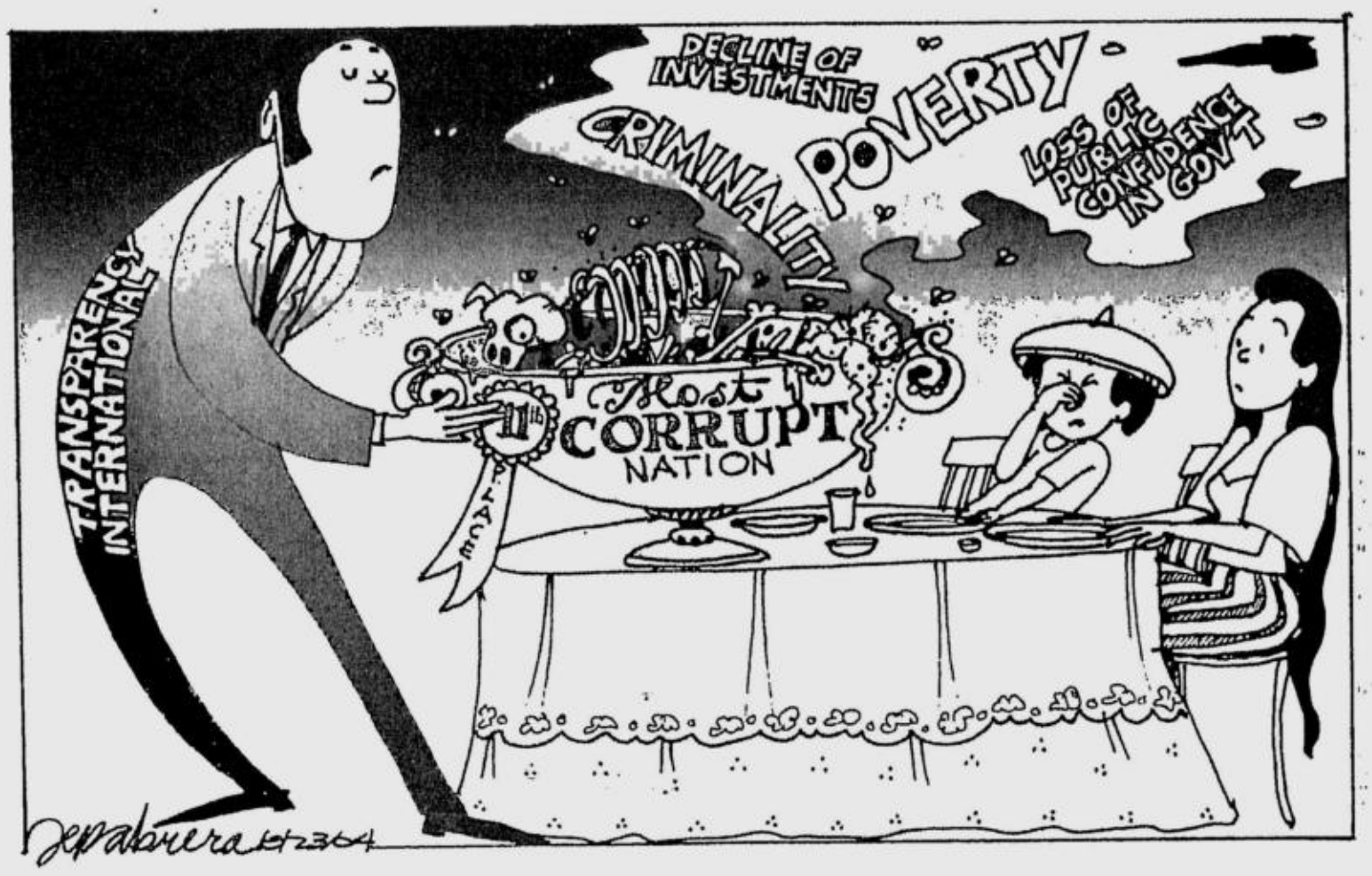


Offense

EDITORIAL

BY ALL accounts, Lt. Gen. Efren Abu has a reputation for being a "straight-shooter" in the military. Soldiers and civilians alike view this member of the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1972 as both honest and efficient. The expectations surrounding his assumption of the position of chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are very high.

Had he not been perceived to be lacking in initiative in pursuing the case against Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia, outgoing Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya would probably have been given an extension of his tour of duty. Instead, Abaya, who himself has enjoyed a good reputation, closes his military career mired in the greatest scandal involving the armed forces. While Abaya, so far, cannot be accused of doing anything wrong, he has fallen prey to an equally grave shortcoming: not doing enough. A general, after all, must both inspire and lead; he must not just be reactive, but proactive. Put in simpler sports terms anyone can appreciate, the best defense is a good offense.

The country is getting increasingly exasperated with the bunker-like mentality of the military, which seems to think that it can hide in a ditch until the action dies down. The AFP cannot afford to duck and sit out this scandal. It certainly cannot miss this historic opportunity to restore its honor and redeem its institutional integrity.

With the transition from Abaya to Abu, the AFP is also experiencing a generation shift. It is this shift that offers the AFP and its leadership the chance to finally cleanse its ranks.

For the first time in generations, too, the AFP is being headed by a civilian, with no ties to the fraternity of PMA graduates and other officers who are now under investigation. For make no mistake about it, the generation of officers represented by Garcia are all under a cloud of doubt.

Because of this rare and well-needed institutional and generational shift, from military to civilian direct supervision and from one PMA class to the next, the AFP leadership has the golden opportunity to stop stealing gold and restore the shine on the brass of its uniforms.

It can be done. Abu has a personal reputation for integrity attractive to the younger generation of officers who are now on the verge of promotion and increased responsibility. For the younger generations of officers, who are sick of being categorized as crooks along with their corrupt elders, this is the time to help clean up the ranks. The time has come, because they are in positions where they can do something about it, to put their careers where their mouths have been: on the line.

The older generals may find it extremely difficult to sacrifice one of their own, but this mistaken sense of solidarity, which owes more to the corrosive and corrupting legacies of martial law, has lost its lease on life. Just as our politics is finally emerging from the shadows of the martial law minions of Marcos, simply because so many of them are already old, retiring, or have died, the same applies to the military. The officers being made generals today were very junior officers during martial law. They, for the most part, never enjoyed the heady perks of absolute power that their elders came to enjoy and expect during martial law. They have seen more, and, in a sense, sacrificed more, because they were more likely to be in the front lines during the past, turbulent 30 years.

At the very least, with a civilian heading the Department of National Defense, one level of cover—or covering up—has been eliminated. With a more dynamic, and it is hoped, more daring chief of staff, the AFP can look forward to prosecuting those in cahoots with Garcia, and putting in place a system that does not reward theft with star rank.

No chief of staff can do it alone. That's for sure. Leadership, however, requires that Abu take the first step. The success of his efforts, once begun, lies with the men and women who are his fellow officers. They can finally break free of the cronyism of the martial law AFP, or they can ensure it is perpetuated for another generation. The country they claim to love has made clear its expectations: reform.

Banning the billboards

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I COMPLETELY agree with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's plan to prohibit billboards along Edsa, for a start. It is a valid security measure for the benefit of motorists and pedestrians using this busy highway. The ban can be sustained under the police power provided it is exercised by the proper authorities. While primarily vested in the national legislature, it may be, and has in fact been, delegated to the local governments under what is known as the General Welfare Clause.

This delegation is found in Section 16 of the Local Government Code and calls on local government units to "ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants."

This wordy provision covers practically every human activity, which may be regulated by the local legislative bodies, from the province and city to the barangay, for any of the purposes meticulously enumerated by the Code. A more general and comprehensive statement of such purposes, as found in the original Administrative Code of 1917, would have sufficed, but Congress was probably infected by the fussiness of the Constitution of 1987 and chose to be as garrulous as that long-winded document. The legislators should have remembered that the more you specify, the more you are likely to exclude and the more you generalize, the more you can include. *Expressio unius est exclusio alterius.*

The most obvious justification for the planned prohibition is the promotion of the safety of the people, motorists and pedestrians alike, by preventing possible motor accidents because of the distraction offered by the billboards to drivers who should be paying attention to their vehicles. Some billboards can be terribly distracting like those illustrating intimate apparel like lingerie or even only revealing clothes worn by girls advertising tractors.

I remember that billboard I wrote about last year with a life-size picture of a beautiful model with her splendid mini-skirted legs spread apart as she reached down for I think a handbag or something. Frankly, I can't recall what she was advertisIng because the billboard called attention not to any article or product but to the pretty girl herself whom the viewers appreciated with much enjoyment and probably also voyeuristic thrill. I was in that article advocating the same thing Fernando is now proposing, *viz.*, the banning of billboards, but subject to some exceptions, like the billboard of that beautiful girl. It was admittedly distracting, but there are times when one must live dangerously.

Seriously, some attractive billboards can really threaten bodily injury, even fatal accidents at times. One need simply pass through Edsa to appreciate this statement. The pictures of beautiful girls, most of them familiar actresses, can make young men, and even old grandfathers, forget their driving in the momentary enjoyment of beauty—and even sexiness—on the billboards. The possible effect can be expected—minor scrapes if you are lucky or even fatal crashes. And you can't even blame the girl who caused all that disturbance because all she was doing was looking pretty, and she wasn't even there.

The danger becomes even more threatening if the model is wearing a low-cut dress or brief shorts or indiscreet underwear better revealed in the bedroom than on a billboard for all to see. And there isn't rhyme or reason for the presence of the girl in the advertisement, which is for paint, or machinery, or fried chicken. Once there was a billboard proclaiming the durability of condoms, but when I passed the same place again later, the billboard had disappeared. It appears that you can innocently praise sanitary napkins publicly but not condoms.

In the 1915 case of Churchill and Tait v. Rafferty, 32 Phil. 580, the Supreme Court affirmed the power of the legislature to regulate billboards, not principally to prevent accidents but to promote aesthetic values. "Billboards which are offensive to the sight," it held, "are not dissociated from the general welfare of the public." This brings to mind that billboard, also on Edsa, advertising an insurance company with the ordinary face of a man who is probably the head of the company and wanted everybody to know it. That billboard should have been banned as an egocentric nuisance. "A source of annoyance and irritation to the public," Justice Trent said, "does not minister to the comfort and convenience of the public."

For the nonce, let the promotion of public safety justify Fernando's proposal. We can later expand the ban to cover billboards offensive to sight, like the pictures of candidates for elective office that belong better to the rogues' gallery.

Strong-arm tactics

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"*BRASUHAN,*" the employment of strong-arm tactics, both literally and figuratively, is a repugnant and deplorable method of getting one's way. Its practice, unfortunately, is more the rule than the exception in the Philippines.

When *brasuhan* comes into play, it is not right, but might, the rule of men, and not the rule of law, that wins the day, which is why the results are repugnant and deplorable. Thus, we should fight it when we see it

There is a recent, ongoing case in which the ultimate victims, innocent bystanders, are crying out for help. No, it does not involve the usual big political, military or business figures, but the issue is still a compelling one, because some of those involved are still in high school, and very bright, idealistic students. If we believe that the youth will be the future leaders of our country, it is imperative that in their case, right, not might, should carry the day. They have to be taught that *brasuhan* is not an immutable way of life.

Here is the simple, unadorned story. The occasion was the 3rd Philippine Robotics Olympiad, billed as a scientific, technological and educational event for elementary and high school students, where the first prize winners get an all-expenses paid trip to Singapore to compete in the World Robotics Olympiad from Nov. 5 to 7, courtesy of the event's local sponsor, FELTA Multi-Media (which sells educational tools and toys, including the world-famous LEGO). The implementing agency, and supposed co-sponsor, is the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology (PFST), which supplies the technical expertise. The two agencies, between them, chose a five-member Board of Judges, whose chair is the director of the Electronics, Computer and Communications Engineering Programs of Ateneo de Manila University, and whose members are faculty members in the same departments at Ateneo, Adamson, Mapua and Sto. Tomas.

While this event will not grip the public's mind like the Garcia millions, it is a very big deal for science students, and has just as important long-term implications (positive, this time) for the country, if we believe in the importance of human capital. The question is, how could *brasuhan* possibly take place under such circumstances? Read on.

All teams participated in a dry run, then a preliminary judgment round, before a final judgment round, which took place on Oct. 1. The secondary level finalists were FAITH Academy, Grace Christian High School (GCHS), Makati Science High School (MSHS), Philippine Science High School (PSHS) Main, and PSHS Central Visayas Campus. So far, so good.

Declared winners on Oct. 1 were GCHS, 1st place; MSHS, 2nd place; and PSHS Main, 3rd place. No problems, right? Wrong.

The PSHS representatives who were closely monitoring the results of the various game events (as were the other teams, mind you) could not reconcile how the final ranking came about. So they brought this up to the Board of Judges.

The BOJ reviewed their tabulation, and found out that indeed, it had made a "fatal error" in the scoring system: they had recorded a wrong tally for GCHS in one of the events. At a meeting on Oct. 4, with all concerned present except for GCHS (who begged off), the judges detailed the corrected scores and declared "with finality" that PSHS was the winner (MSHS was 2nd and GCHS was 3rd, after a tiebreaker with FAITH). Those present were assured that the BOJ would take responsibility for errors and were requested to keep the results confidential until GCHS could be informed.

BOJ chair Rosula Reyes then wrote a letter of apology to GCHS and its students, saying, "Sir, inasmuch as we want to maintain our earlier declaration, but our conscience and moral responsibility of rectifying a fatal mistake is greater than standing firm with and hiding from the phrase 'the Board of Judges decision is final and unappealable.' We humble ourselves in committing this mistake yet we wish to rise up by rectifying it." You get the drift, hopefully.

GCHS' principal refused to accept the BOJ explanation. In his Oct. 8 reply, he accused the BOJ of having "altered" the results, and claimed that the rules of competition had been changed. His letter heaps opprobrium on the BOJ. Ironically, he talks about fair play and clean competition. Did he think PSHS and the BOJ cheated?

In any case, one can only surmise that the BOJ was cowed, because that same day, Oct. 8, it announced a third "final decision," declaring all three teams as winners (in effect a three-way tie which created a financial problem), with no computations, calculations, or documents to back this up. When a puzzled PSHS sought clarification during a meeting the next day and in subsequent letters, FELTA, rather than support the request for transparency, seemed to display annoyance and impatience in its replies.

Make no mistake, folks. The students from all schools who participated in this Olympiad certainly know who the first placer was. They are not science whizzes for nothing. Everybody seems to be underestimating them because they are so young.

The students of PSHS are taking the stand that their participation in the Singapore Olympiad will depend on the acknowledgment of errors committed and recognition of rightful winners. Will they get what they have earned? Or are they going to be first-hand witnesses and victims of a successful *brasuhan*?

High-profile anti-corruption drive works against RP

THE LONDON-BASED Transparency International has rated the Philippines 11th place in its global corruption rating. According to the report, TI has rated RP, along with five other countries, as among the most corrupt among 146 countries, over the past two years. Predictably it caused an uproar here.

After the initial hysteria, let's look at this report more dispassionately. That there's plenty of corruption in our midst cannot be denied (interestingly, the TI report came out just when the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia is all over the media). But whether RP is among the "most corrupt in the world" is arguable.

* * *

I submit that many countries in Asia and Africa would beat us to that distinction any time. Secondly, what credentials does TI possess to make that rating? Who are the people in this group? Are they credible?

I think TI failed to put in context the many moves that government, civil society, Church and other NGOs are doing to contain this problem, including the lifestyle check on government officials and setting up a court martial for Garcia. The recent grant by the World Bank of $716,000 to help fund the anti-corruption campaign of the Office of the Ombudsman is indication of the campaign's credibility.

The anti-corruption campaign unarguably needs more biting teeth. But it has also been very high profile, and this is what has worked against us. Few countries have given their anti-corruption campaign the media mileage that we have.

* * *

Former Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena faxed this reaction to my story about the three Leyteños, led by Valeriano Abello, who, at great risk to their lives, helped guide the forces of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to their Japanese targets, saving the lives of perhaps thousands of civilians in the Palo and Tolosa areas in October 1944. Wrote Garchitorena: "Your column item was heartwarming—it shows how foolhardiness makes for heroism only when it becomes successful and how it remains just foolhardiness when it fails. Your brothers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

and some of their friends knew different and they got it from the foolish sons of Loyola whom they grew up with in school. It showed in Edsa in '86, among other places, even if it failed to show among their other friends who joined up with Makoy and Cocoy in '72—and these ones did very well, indeed, by association."

Garchitorena also surmised that Abello's two friends, Antero Junia Sr. and Vicente Tiston, may not have known how to use the semaphore flags, called "wigwags" by the Boy Scouts. But perhaps in their ignorance, he said, they believed in the importance of what their friend had set out to do, i.e., get the correct information about that shore town in Leyte before the US naval bombardment. "And just as foolishly bet their lives on it."

* * *

A conference this Tuesday at the Dusit Nikko Hotel in Makati should be most interesting to the information technology crowd. It should appeal to business and government executives in the fields of mobile telecommunications, banking, retail, identification system, payment systems for mass transportation, home automation and control systems. Called "Intelligent Chip Conference 2004," it is patterned after the annual Smart card conference held in France and Australia and will focus on the technology of the "Intelligence Chip," a French innovation that has found wide-ranging applications and brought about greater efficiencies and convenience in the way business is conducted. It's presented by the Philippines-France Professional Association, the French Embassy and UBI France, in cooperation with the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, headed by its chair, Virgilio Peña.

Among the speakers are: Jean Pierre Camelot, adviser to the French president on new technologies, who comes from Groupement des Cartes Bancaires, a group tasked to implement a French interbank card scheme; Chou Fang Soong, CEO of Gemplus Southeast Asia, who will speak on "Smart Cards–A Vision of Growth"; and Jocelyn Ang of NET's in Singapore, who will present "A Case for a Successful e-Purse Scheme." Also scheduled to bare their plans for the intelligent chip are Aurelio Montinola III, Bank of the Philippine Islands COO, Renato Valencia, co-chair of the ICT Council, and a host of other speakers from various user companies who will speak on their own experiences with this technology.

The local ICT crowd should take advantage of opportunities such as this, which brings to our part of the world the technologies making waves abroad. For particulars, call Kristine Rufino at 894-0074.

* * *

My good friend, Lory Lina, new Manila Hotel president Joey Lina's better half, invites one and all to view and invest in some very fine art pieces at reasonable prices (ranging from P3,000 to P160,000)—all for a good cause. The Faith Art Exhibit opened at the Elim Center for Renewal TV Studio, No. 51 10th St., Rolling Hills Village, New Manila, Quezon City, last Wednesday and continues till tomorrow. Twenty-seven renowned and upcoming Christian artists have donated about 80 paintings for this exhibit, among them Alfredo Remy Boquiren, Imelda Endaya, Aba Lluch Dalena, Ted Luna, Carlo Magno, Sherwin Tan and Pablo Baen Santos. "The art works were inspired by prayer and executed with the end goal of giving glory to God," Lory says, and so it's art that reflects God's beauty. Proceeds from the paintings will go to the evangelization program of Springs Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization geared toward the proclamation of the Good News through the arts and media. I have seen the exhibit and found a number of pieces that would be attractive to private and corporate collectors. Contact Lory Lina 0917-856-5639/421-7359, or Mars Catan-0918-442-7446/722-6749.

'Low and slow' response to HIV/AIDS

"LOW and slow" describes not just the prevalence and pace of the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines, as health officials proclaim. It may also be applied to the response of the government to the epidemic.

In a talk during a policy forum on development focusing on the Millennium Development Goal to "halt and reverse" the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015, Dr. Kathleen Cravero, UNAIDS deputy executive director, asked: "Is the Philippines on track? Or is AIDS even seen as a threat to the country's development?"

The country, she said, cannot "use low HIV prevalence as a security blanket," noting how "the extent and speed of the epidemic's spread are beyond our capability to accurately predict." Even a "low and slow" country like the Philippines may suddenly find itself overwhelmed by a sudden explosion of HIV/AIDS cases, and unless it has prepared adequately for such an explosion, its health systems will be quickly overtaken, its productive labor force decimated, its prospects for development set back by several decades.

"If funding is to be used as an indicator of the importance being given to the fight against AIDS in this country," Cravero pointed out, "it is worth looking at the budget of the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC). I understand that this has decreased substantially from about P48 million in 1997 to no more than P6 million this year."

This, despite the fact (which even government health authorities do not deny) that many factors that drive HIV transmission are present in this country. Among these: low condom use among vulnerable populations; a sex work industry widely dispersed throughout the country; a high percentage of drug users sharing injecting equipment; young people engaging in risky behavior; high population mobility; high rates of sexually transmitted infections; poor health-seeking behavior; and lack of knowledge about AIDS among vulnerable groups and the general public.

* * *

HEALTH officials, including at least two health secretaries I spoke with personally, have questioned the amount of money being spent on preventing and treating HIV/AIDS given the extent of poverty in this country, and the threat posed by other diseases like TB, malaria and even dengue.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

These days, their doubts may even have found currency, given the "fiscal crisis" the government faces, as well as the sudden acknowledgment of the growing problem of hunger and malnutrition in our midst.

"Given the current crisis, is it appropriate to talk about AIDS?" Cravero asked.

In reply, the UNAIDS official observed, "It is no small consolation that addressing hunger and poverty contributes to the prevention of HIV. You all know that most of what is good for development is also good for defeating AIDS. Children who stay in school are at lower risk of becoming infected. A vibrant rural sector creates local jobs that keep families intact. Gender equality creates security and opportunity for women, reducing the number of those who must resort to sex work for survival."

But, added Cravero, "the reverse is also true. If left unchecked, AIDS will invariably bring further disasters in its wake," with "an AIDS epidemic (having) widespread effects that will last for generations."

* * *

NOW when HIV/AIDS in the Philippines is still "low and slow," Cravero noted, is precisely the best time to expand prevention and care efforts, which are "much more effective and less costly than dealing with a full-blown epidemic," a lesson "Africa learned the hard way."

"The low prevalence status of HIV in the Philippines today does not present a dilemma," Cravero declared. "It should be seized as an opportunity!"

Other speakers at the policy forum echoed Cravero's concerns. Dr. Jean-Marc Olive, WHO representative in the Philippines and chair of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, noted how "the Philippines seems to have been better prepared" than other countries in the region in dealing with the epidemic, but that lately the country "seems to have become complacent." "AIDS is coming," he warned, and the country seems to have let down its guard. Among the particular areas of concern he noted: inadequate condom promotion based on "moral" grounds, even as other Catholic countries, like Mexico, have proven that it's possible for a country to be predominantly Catholic and yet aggressively promote condoms as a protection against HIV infection; and the lack of access of most of the Filipinos living with HIV/AIDS to anti-AIDS medications. "If we can offer free or subsidized medicines, we will increase voluntary testing," he said.

* * *

EASILY the most impassioned of the speakers at the forum was Maureen Colombo, a member and spokesperson of Pinoy Plus, an organization of persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as a founder of Babae Plus, composed of women living with HIV/AIDS.

Among the most neglected of the country's HIV/AIDS program areas, she said, is the care and support for persons living with HIV/AIDS. "The budget has been reduced drastically, and support for those of us living in San Lazaro (where former Health Secretary and now Sen. Juan Flavier set up a home for PWHA's) has likewise gone down dramatically."

Colombo recounted the hardships they were facing, especially the lack of cremation facilities for their dead fellow residents. "Ever since San Lazaro's crematorium broke down, we have had a very hard time burying our dead. It's too expensive for us to pay for private cremation, and there is no one we can turn to for help."

Even "simple needs" such as pain killers like paracetamol are not available to them, Colombo noted. "Doctors give us prescriptions, but with no money to buy the medicines or food, we might as well eat the paper they're written on."

A visit to a sultan

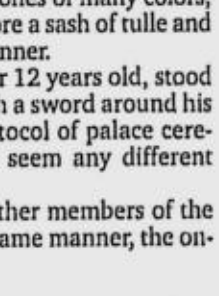
IN APRIL 1864, Spanish Commissioner Regio led a delegation to pay a courtesy call on the Sultan of Jolo, Mohammed Diamolol Alau. They had left Zamboanga the day before on the schooner Circe. The commander of the Navy, D. Antonio Mora, preceded them as the advance party and relayed the message that the sultan was in his residence in the fields but would arrive that night.

Between 11 a.m. and noon, the datus Alin-Nasa, Gudin, Iman-Alipa and Iman-Aman together with their subjects and retinue arrived, accompanied by Mora and the secretary-interpreter of the sultan, Vicente Narciso, made their courtesy call. The emissaries requested Regio to dispense with the gun salute since the court was in mourning and local protocol did not allow artillery salvos. That evening five captives of the Joloanos who had tried to escape were returned as a gesture of goodwill.

The datus Asim, Diamarol, Disrael and Aman and others accompanied the expedition when they disembarked and took each of the Spaniards by hand, and led them thus while repeating the words "friend...brothers" in a high voice and in Spanish through the armed multitude, surrounded and followed by guards bearing immense swords. In this manner, the retinue crossed the short space from the beach, passing bridges and climbing up and down stairs of bamboo until they reached the house of the Sultan Mohammed Diamolol Alau.

The house had been prepared for the official occasion, the roof covered mostly in a tapiz of silk embroidered in various colors and the walls draped with Chinese silk (known in Jolo as *de Persiana* and very similar to a European cloth called *de casulla)* from ceiling to floor. On a dais in the center of the wall to the right of the entrance door was the throne stuffed with crimson pillows. The sultan did not occupy his canopied throne but instead sat on an old armchair to the left of the throne. A round table with various chairs comprised the rest of the furniture of the room. A lighted candle on a slim and large copper candlestick on top of the table emitted a poor radiance since it was still daylight.

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

The sultan arose when the visitors entered and gave them his hand. He signaled for them to sit down, and the servants prepared the table for the meal consisting of crystal cups filled with European liqueurs and various types of European jams, newly baked cookies and rolls of honey-sweetened rice that the Moros especially enjoyed. Chocolate in the French manner was served in Chinese porcelain cups.

The sultan was a young man of 19 whose physical aspect confirmed the information earlier acquired that he was a sensualist, with the consent and help of the datus who took advantage of his weakness with great ease. The use of opium was completing the work of destroying a physique and temperament that were not particularly robust. He was dressed in mourning, wearing the silver belt with the escutcheon of the Spanish arms in gold at the center given by the governor-general. His turban was of silk embroidered in gold and silver, his short jacket also of silk was seeded with fancy colored stones encased on it. His narrow pantaloons of black silk, dotted with sequins and decorated with gilded small stars and stones of many colors, didn't reach his ankles. He wore a sash of tulle and silk decorated in the same manner.

His brother, who was 10 or 12 years old, stood at the right of the sultan, with a sword around his waist as required by the protocol of palace ceremonies. The sword did not seem any different from the ones in use.

The datus, subjects and other members of the retinue were dressed in the same manner, the only variation being that their loose gowns were shorter, more or less richly decorated according to their rank. In a carved gold box with various divisions of the same metal, the visitors were presented with cigars and betel or *buyo* which the Moros used constantly.

Through the interpreter and secretary of the sultan, a Filipino sergeant who was paid P25 monthly, the commissioner made it known that he was visiting the dominions of Her Majesty to learn about their situation and find out their needs. Since Jolo was considered part of the realm, any complaints or opinions would reach Her Majesty.

Datu Asim who served as first minister of the sultan, replied that they were honored by the visit and the pleasure of the visit prevented them from complaining. He added that they would put down in writing their thanks for the offer, confident of the protection of the Queen that the Joloanos had always counted on.

However, they were able to express their desire to arm four vintas to pursue pirates. They also wanted to open their ports to commerce and establish a customs house. In the event that the armed vessels could not stop piracy, they wanted reassurance that the royal navy would help and offer other means to stop it. The government would be in charge of the vessels' maintenance.

The commissioner replied that he would recommend the proposal to the governor and to the Queen since he himself could not make the decision.

The minister insisted that the premise of the proposal was that no commerce was possible as long as piracy persisted.

The farewells were conducted with as much courtesy as the arrival and the datus accompanied the Spaniards back to their ship (and no doubt heaved a sigh of relief) .

(Loose translation of D. Patricio de la Escosura's "Filipinas y Jolo," 1882.)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Stay-at-home mom

AS I was going up the driveway this morning, I saw my neighbor getting into a waiting car. She was in uniform, fully made-up, not a hair out of place and dragging her luggage. She looked so different from me in my jeans and shirt, pony tails and unadorned faced since I just came back from the supermarket after buying groceries.

I recognized the uniform as a flight attendant's. It made me smile, since I used to look like that, too, almost every day a few years back: manicured nails, well-kept hair and always ready with my overnight bag.

YOUNG BLOOD

Dinah Libunao

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

But then, after my stint with the airline industry, I've chosen another career: motherhood. After the birth of my first child (I have two now, of ages 4 and 5 years), I decided not to rejoin the work force. My friends would tease me, "*Sayang ang* brains *mo!*" and I would just smile because being a full-time mom doesn't mean that you'd stop using your brain! I may not be thinking about the usual marketing plans or business strategies, or mastering the procedures in case of emergency landing, but, yes, I still use my brain, thank you.

Some people may look at the things that a mother does at home as ordinary (I did too, before), but it doesn't matter what other people think because they are not. They are a great responsibility, and they involve the whole family's life, especially the kids' and their future. And that is the most important of all.

Children didn't ask to be brought into this world. It was the parents who decided that. So I believe that parents owe it to their kids to take care of them and love them the best way they can. I am not saying to the working mothers out there that they are bad mothers. It's a different story for every woman.

I consider myself lucky to have the choice of staying home and taking care of my kids. Some women want to do it, but just can't, especially in these hard times. I'm very grateful that I have the opportunity to be able to spend the whole day, every day, with my growing kids. I am happy to witness their first steps, hear their first words, feed them their first solid food, and even wipe them when they make a mess. Those are memories that I will always cherish. Before I'd know it, they will be going away to college and living their own lives.

It's not always easy, but staying at home to care for the kids has its rewards. Sometimes when the newspapers are scattered all over the place by my 5-year-old son (he has been reading and spelling words like "inquirer," and "headlines" since he was 4) even before I get to read them, I would get mad. But then I'd realize that, at least, he is reading the papers!

Since they learned how to use the computer, there have been many times when we would argue about who would use it first. For me, that means less time to chat online, but then I remember that they are the ones teaching their grandma how to surf!

Yes, I think I made the right decision. At least I don't have to wake up early and endure the traffic on Edsa. I can take naps in the afternoon with my kids or go to the mall any time of the week if I want to, or just sit back and enjoy a cup of coffee while watching my kids play. Ah, life's simple pleasures.

When I opened the door to our unit, laden with grocery bags, the sight that greeted me made my grocery trip worthwhile. My 4-year-old ran up to me, a radiant smile on his innocent face, and proudly said, "Mommy, look what site we're at! Nickelodeon.com!"

Matching his enthusiasm, I said, "That's great, baby! But how did you find that website?" He answered, "Google."

Dinah Libunao, 28, is a BS Tourism graduate of the University of the Philippines-Diliman. She worked as a flight attendant for GrandAir right after graduation.

Exodus

Iris Templora

FOR the past 10 years, I've labored at school. I took up a pre-medicine course at the University of Sto. Tomas, followed by another four years of intense study in medical school at the same university, another year of internship training and several months of review for the physicians' licensure examination. Finally, after seemingly endless years of sleepless nights, missed family reunions, neglected birthdays and special occasions, forgotten friends and social life and after spending hundreds of thousands of pesos for tuition, books, allowances and the like, I finally had my license.

I am now a full-fledged doctor. I've fulfilled my lifelong dream. I have made my family proud.

With a light heart and an open mind, I began applying for my residency training in some of our government hospitals. Imagine my disbelief when I learned that for the next three years as I take up my specialization in any of those hospitals, I would not receive a single centavo as a stipend. And all because our government has not allocated enough budget for the training of doctors.

Given this condition, it becomes easy to understand why many doctors are shifting to nursing so that they can work in the United States or the United Kingdom. I myself would not suffer yet again years and years of 36-hour duty every other day in a hospital that would not give us enough compensation for our services—not even allowances for our food or transportation.

My family has spent enough for my education, and I think it is time I repaid them for all the sacrifices they made to get me through medical school. But it seems like all my dreams have been flushed down the drain. All I want to do is cry due to the unfairness of it all.

Now, I'm joining the bandwagon. I have decided to swallow my pride, earn a nursing degree and join the nurses and doctors who are leaving the country for greener pastures, for a better future.

Who can blame us? Unless the government does something, the health care service in our country is doomed. I am not willing to wait around until that happens.

Iris Templora, 26, passed the medical board exams last August.

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Coupons and other ways of putting food on tables

THE RIGHT to adequate food is one of the people's economic, social and cultural rights provided in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Our government is a signatory to this covenant and as such has an obligation to implement it.

The food coupon system being planned by the government is one way of temporarily responding to the hunger problem of many Filipinos. It may not provide much, but it would put food on the tables of the poor. The government should just see to it that it is the poor that get them, whatever their political affiliation.

We, however, believe that a better way of ensuring that poor families meet their food needs is by enacting a minimum income or basic income law as has been done in other countries like Brazil and India. Under such law, poor families will be assured of money and food which they can use to augment their earnings. In Brazil, 3.6 million families are benefiting from their Bolsa Familia program. India, on the other hand, has a Public Distribution System where it collects grains that it gives to the poorest of the poor. It also has a midday meal for children in schools.

Economic and social reforms, such as land reform, more basic services, job creation, fair wages and others, must likewise be implemented to genuinely eliminate or substantially reduce hunger in our country.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
policy advocacy officer,
FIAN Philippines,
2149-B Fidel A. Reyes St.,
Malate, Manila

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

UPLB: No illegal logging

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Los Baños will welcome a Senate inquiry into our decision to cut diseased trees in the campus. It will be an opportunity to clear ourselves of the unfair allegations that we made that decision for profit; and to prove that these trees were recommended for cutting for reasons of public safety. The trees were diagnosed by our foresters to have butt and center rot, were leaning toward the road, were in high human activity zone areas, and thus they constituted public safety hazards.

Our action was not arbitrary and had legal basis under Republic Act No. 3571, which clearly states that a tree can be cut, pruned or destroyed when necessary, for public safety.

University officials did not have pecuniary interest in the lumber as some people would like the public to believe. Neither are the UPLB administrators undertaking illegal logging of trees "worth P40 million inside the campus" as alleged. UPLB has in fact demonstrated a very good track record of forest conservation and rehabilitation as showcased by the Makiling Forest Reserve, the only remaining forest within the 65-kilometer radius of Metro Manila. Through this letter, we invite Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to conduct an aerial survey of the MFR.

We dare our accusers—that is, if they really believe we, the UPLB administrators, are guilty—to file a case instead of continuing with their publicity stunt against us.

—WILFREDO P. DAVID,
chancellor,
University of the Philippines Los Baños,
College, Laguna

Imports killing PBA

A DECADE or so ago, "imports" became a regular—in fact, the principal—feature of the Philippine Basketball Association's conferences. Did the imports improve the Philippine brand of basketball?

Before the advent of the imports, we were the supreme basketball power in Asia. We even placed third in the Berlin Olympics. In the last Asian games, however, after a series of losses in the preliminaries, our team went down to the losers' bracket and ended up near the tailend! How sad!

I have been regularly watching PBA games since the league started. I have noticed that with the the imports around, our Filipino stars are being deprived of enough playing time and usually end up as second stringers. Then they are eventually treated as "has beens."

We thus sympathize with the Filipino basketball players' predicament. Their position on the issue of PBA imports has basis in law, specifically Article 40 and Rule XIV, Sections 4, 5 and Subsections 2 and 3-c of the Labor Code.

Article 40 requires that non-resident aliens may be granted an employment permit by the Department of Labor and Employment only after it has been determined that no person in the Philippines, who is competent and willing at the time of the application to perform the services for which the alien is desired, is available.

Rule XIV, Sections 4 and 5, mandate (1) "That the resident alien shall bind themselves to train at least two Filipino understudies for a period to be determined by the Minister (secretary, DOLE) and (2) the designation by the employer of at least two understudies for every alien worker (Subsections 2 and 3-c).

There is no question that an employer-employee relationship exists between the PBA and the alien players and, therefore, they should be subject to the provisions of the Labor Code and of its implementing rules.

Obviously, the requirements of the law have not been met. The DOLE and PBA should not have allowed these "imports" to play in the first place. If the PBA's intention was to improve Philippine basketball, from all indications, it has achieved the opposite. We are almost the tailender in Asia. The better alternative would have been to import expert coaches and play more games against foreign champion basketball teams.

The DOLE should, for the reasons discussed above, immediately cancel the working permits of the imports and the PBA should put in their stead our Filipino players.

—JOSE T. APOLO
4388 Rosemallow Rd.,
Sunvalley, Parañaque City

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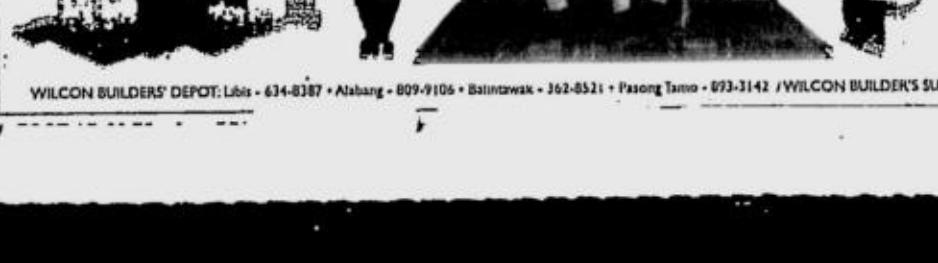

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Racketeers use ex-AFP exec's name

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—What is this group called the Retired Officers and Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (Roepap) and what has former Armed Forces vice chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr., got to do with it?

The Roepap has field representatives going around Pampanga and Tarlac villages, soliciting funds from overseas Filipino workers by selling to them raffle tickets worth P4,000 each.

No receipts, either registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue or Department of Trade and Industry, are being issued for the contributions, the National Bureau of Investigation said.

The funds were supposedly being raised for Roepap's 35th founding anniversary on Dec. 30, said NBI Central Luzon agent Narciso Peña whose team on Thursday night held for questioning at least three women claiming to be representatives of the group.

Found in the possession of Julieta Gatus, Quincy Gatus and Maria Padilla were several tickets, certifications, authorization letters, identification cards and Roepap's official stationery and envelopes.

These were kept in a large folder-type brochure of Camiling when he was still the Army's chief between November 2002 and 2003.

In the folder, the INQUIRER saw a photograph of Camiling with a certain Marina Olaes whom the suspects identified as the general's "cousin."

Peña said the suspects had apparently been dropping Camiling's name and had been misrepresenting the Roepap, if it was indeed a genuine organization.

He said he called the Veterans Center's Room 204 in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, the purported address of the Roepap, to confirm the authenticity of the group, the identities of the suspects and the fund-raising campaign.

He said the office's secretary at first denied the existence of the group then later confirmed it after making Peña wait on the phone for several minutes.

No confirmation was given on the suspects or on the solicitation drive, he said.

But Lt. Col Daniel Lucero, AFP public information officer, said the AFP does not recognize the group.

"*Gawa-gawa lang ito* (They just made it up). *Hindi* recognized *ng* AFP. They are (involved in a) money-making scam," said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, AFP public information officer.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, public information chief of the AFP's Northern Luzon Command, said his office has no information on the existence of Roepap or its activities.

Nolcom has coordinated the investigation with the NBI.

Village officials in San Isidro in San Fernando, south of Clark, held the three suspects and took them to the NBI Central Luzon office there.

Barangay Councilor Nestor Sanga made the citizens' arrest on the request of complainants Aileen Tayag and Elizabeth de Guzman, also of San Isidro, for possible estafa and extortion.

De Guzman said the three women sold similar tickets to her on Oct. 16, 2002 just after she arrived from Saudi Arabia.

Tayag, who was on vacation from a job in Hong Kong, said she was approached by the suspects on Thursday afternoon.

Sanga said the suspects had duped many OFWs in the village.

The IDs of the suspects bore the name and signature of a certain Lt. Col. Esmeraldo Ramos Acorda.

An authorization letter issued by one retired Lt. Gil Jamandron, vice national commander of the Central Luzon region, designated Olaes and Julieta Gatus as "field project coordinators." ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

KILLING ME SOFTLY RYAN ROSAURO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A farmer who had just sprayed chemical pesticides on a farm in Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte rests by a roadside and smokes just after he inhaled the toxic pesticides.

NPA rebels torch tractor owned by American trader

BACOLOD CITY—About 30 armed men suspected to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels on Tuesday torched a farm tractor owned by American businessman Charles Mosser in Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, about 82 km south of here.

Supt. Milko Lirazan, Himamaylan City police chief, said the tractor, worth about P100,000, was beyond repair.

He said that about 7 p.m. of Tuesday, about 30 armed men went to Mosser's farm in Buenavista, a mountain village located about 20 km from the Himamaylan city proper.

The rebels asked for food from the farm workers and stayed there for about two hours. At about 9:30 p.m., the rebels then moved the tractor away from the staff house, doused it with gasoline and then set it on fire.

Lirazan said the rebels told the staff members that they wanted to teach Mosser a lesson because the American had been staying in Negros Occidental for 44 years but had not paid a single centavo in revolutionary taxes.

Mosser, in his 70s, is married to a Negrense. He owns a hotel in San Francisco and two establishments in Negros Occidental—a store that sells imported goods in Bacolod and a beach resort in Hinigaran town.

Lirazan said Mosser is also engaged in reforestation projects in the upland villages of Carabalan, Buenavista and Mahalang in Himamaylan.

The American also provides livelihood opportunities such as vegetable farming, to the residents, he added.

The torching of Mosser's tractor came a month after the rebel group also burned a tractor in E.B. Magalona town because its owner, sugar planter Isabelita Montinola, refused to pay revolutionary taxes. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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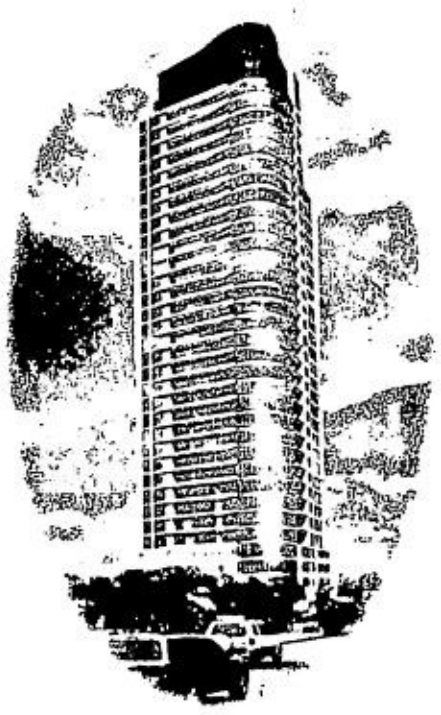

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Villagers blame brewery for pollution

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Brewery giant San Miguel Corp. on Wednesday became the subject of protests by some 300 residents claiming that the company's plant here had dried up wells, dumped inadequately treated wastewater at the creek and emitted heavy metals into the air.

The SMC San Fernando plant community relations office denied the allegations.

It furnished the INQUIRER a copy of an industrial ecowatch program rating report dated July 13, 2004. The report, signed by Demetrio Ignacio Jr., Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer-in-charge, informed the SMC that it obtained the "blue" rating, meaning it passed performance compliance standards.

The SMC has an ISO 14000 certification, a standard that is higher than what the government requires, it was learned.

The protesters, all residents of Barangay Quebiawan on where the complex is located, began marching at 7 a.m.

Security breach

They breached the security line and formed a picket a few meters from the SMC gate. They were carrying streamers and placards decrying the alleged pollution and depletion of water in the village. No SMC official went out to talk to the protesters.

Roberto Manalo, chair of the Quebiawan Muna Neighborhood Association, said the SMC violated the terms of a 1977 memorandum of agreement with the villagers, when the SMC was starting to build the complex.

Aside from employment, the terms include free supply of clean water and care for the environment, Manalo said.

The SMC started operations in Quebiawan, a village now occupied by 10,000 residents, in 1979.

Also on Wednesday, the Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines released the findings of a study confirming the dumping of inadequately treated liquid waste along the Quebiawan Creek.

"The SMC is likewise denying the residents of sources of clean water, potable and affordable water," said Frances Quimpo, CEC executive director.

Quimpo said water samples obtained from the main wastewater outlet of SMC registered 8,800 milligram per liter mg/L of total dissolved solids. This, she said, was five times higher than the level allowed by the DENR under Administrative Order 35.

Oxygen demand

Quimpo said the SMC here registered a biochemical oxygen demand of 67 mg/L, which is thrice the level recorded from the polluted Pasig River.

"These results suggest that water in the creek is definitely polluted and the presence of SMC and other industries discharging waste into the creek are indicative of the degraded condition of the creek," Januar Ong, also of the CEC said.

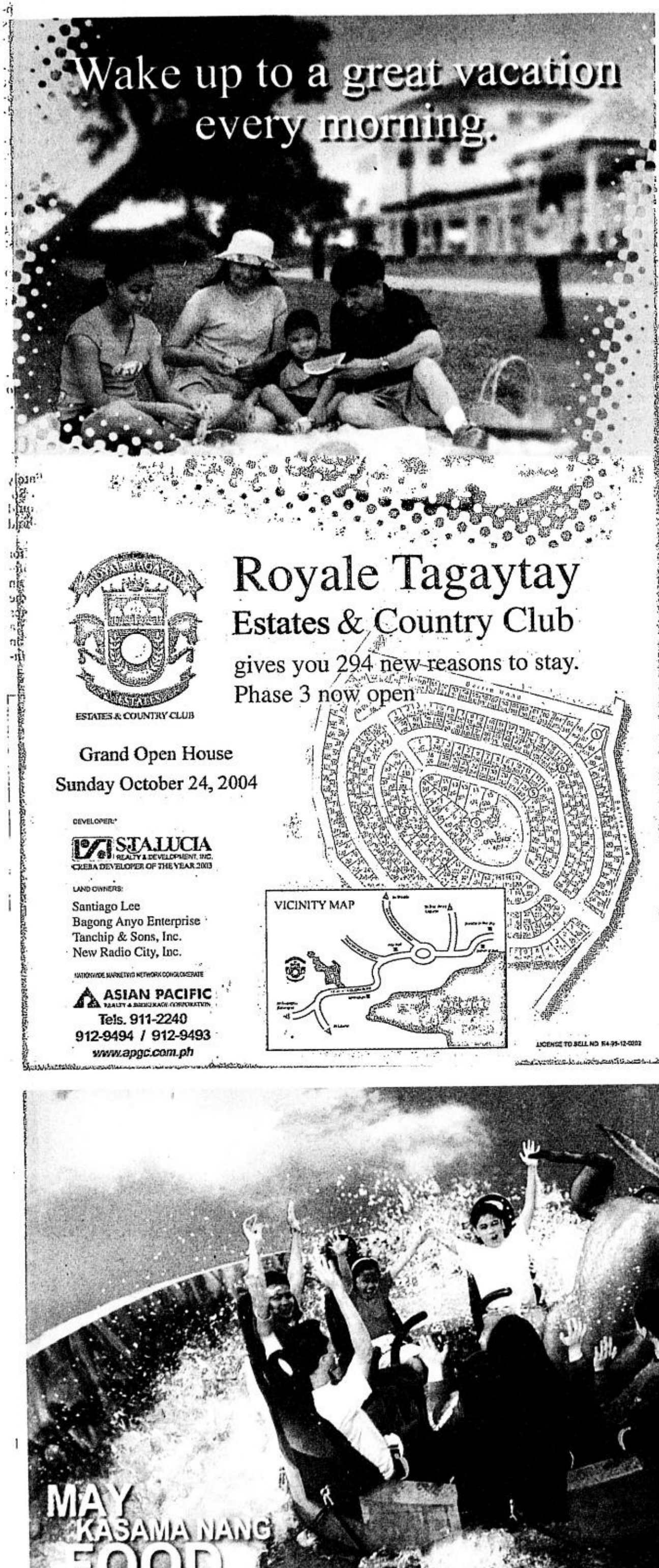
National Water Resources Board data showed that SMC, which maintains 10 groundwater pumps here, draws more than 400 liters per seconds. Ong said this was the likely cause of depleted water supply in the village.

Milagros Lopez, 52, said the water drawn from a well in Purok 3 where she lives gives out yellowish water with foul odor.

Ong said seven out of 12 samples of drinking water collected from piped water connected to the City of San Fernando Water District contained an average total coliform count of 8 to 23. The standard should not exceed zero for every 100 ml of water.

Quimpo said the problem in Quebiawan "is not a simple case of corporate environmental abuse, although that is already serious."

"The greater problem is how the people have been marginalized in the enjoyment of natural bounties when giant industries like SMC lord over and abuse the natural resources that should be reserved for the people," she said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ROUNDUP

Towns get patrol boat

UNISAN, Quezon—The coastal towns of Unisan, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Pitogo, General Luna, Catanauan, Mulanay and San Francisco in southern Quezon have received a patrol boat that would guard their territorial waters against illegal fishing. The boat, worth P5 million, was given by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on request of former Rep. Aleta Suarez, wife of Rep. Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) who led the inauguration rites for the boat last week. The current Quezon legislator called on all the barangay captains in the coastal villages to guard against illegal fishing in their areas.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected NPA nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—A suspected communist rebel facing two murder charges was arrested in Pilar, Sorsogon on Wednesday, police said. Gen. Restituto Mosqueda, PNP regional director, said the suspect, Edgar Nuylan, was arrested by the Police Regional Mobile Group by virtue of two warrants of arrest for murder issued by the Regional Trial Court branch 52 in Sorsogon City and the Pilar Municipal Trial Court. Along with Nuylan, a certain Gerald Blanca was also apprehended for possession of a .38 cal. revolver without a license, a police report said.
Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Charred body found

LEGAZPI CITY—The burned body of a woman was found in Purok 3 Barangay Gogon here yesterday. The victim, believed to be Angelica Bautista, 21, of Tiwi, Albay, was reported missing since Tuesday. Bautista did not report for work at the Eastern Sun Management Enterprises after withdrawing money amounting to P308,000 in a bank here. A bag, believed to be owned by Bautista, containing two passbooks and withdrawal slips, was found in Purok 5 also in the same barangay. The victim's hands were tied with a wire. The body was undergoing examination at the PNP crime laboratory for proper identification while authorities were investigating the motives and the identity of the suspects. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

182 crime suspects fall

LUCENA CITY—A total of 182 suspected criminals, three of them included in the wanted lists of three police stations, were arrested in August and September. Senior Supt. Leo Kison, Quezon police chief, identified the three suspects as Alexander Bagsik, listed as No. 2 in the Catanauan police wanted list; Ruel C. Peñamante, No. 5 most wanted in Burdeos town; and Allan Quipit Abanez, No. 6 most wanted in Lucban. Police also seized 40 illegal firearms and arrested 34 suspects carrying unlicensed guns. They also arrested eight suspected illegal loggers and seized a total of 219,125 board feet of illegally cut assorted lumber and 434 board feet of narra. Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, chief of Quezon police intelligence and investigation unit, also reported the arrest of 92 suspected drug pushers during the same period and the seizure of some 27.4 grams of shabu worth about P51,000.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 shot dead in Abra

BANGUED, Abra—Armed men shot and killed two men and wounded another in Barangay Silet in San Juan town on Oct. 13, a day after local government officials surrendered 24 firearms and a hand grenade. Police identified the fatalities as Arlino Bican, 22, a Cordillera People's Liberation Army member and Oejean de la Cruz, 14. Ronald Dican, 18, was treated at the Abra Provincial Hospital here for a bullet wound in the chin. The victims, all from Tineg, were supporters of a political family in that town.
Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Kidnap gang leader nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Intelligence operatives of the Calabarzon police office arrested an alleged leader of a kidnap-for-ransom gang, who was also involved in the ambush-slaying of a mayor from Mindoro Oriental five years ago.

Larry Santiago was arrested in his hideout in General Trias, Cavite early Wednesday, police said.

Senior Supt. Ricardo Marquez, Calabarzon police intelligence chief, said Santiago, a native of Mindoro, was arrested at around 2:15 a.m. inside his hideout in Sitio Ilang, Barangay San Francisco based on a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Ireneo Molato of Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro.

Marquez said Santiago had a P500,000 reward for his capture as leader of the Digma kidnap-for-ransom group based on the island province.

He said the suspect was also involved with a highway robbery group operating in Mindoro Oriental.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Reb's remains dug up

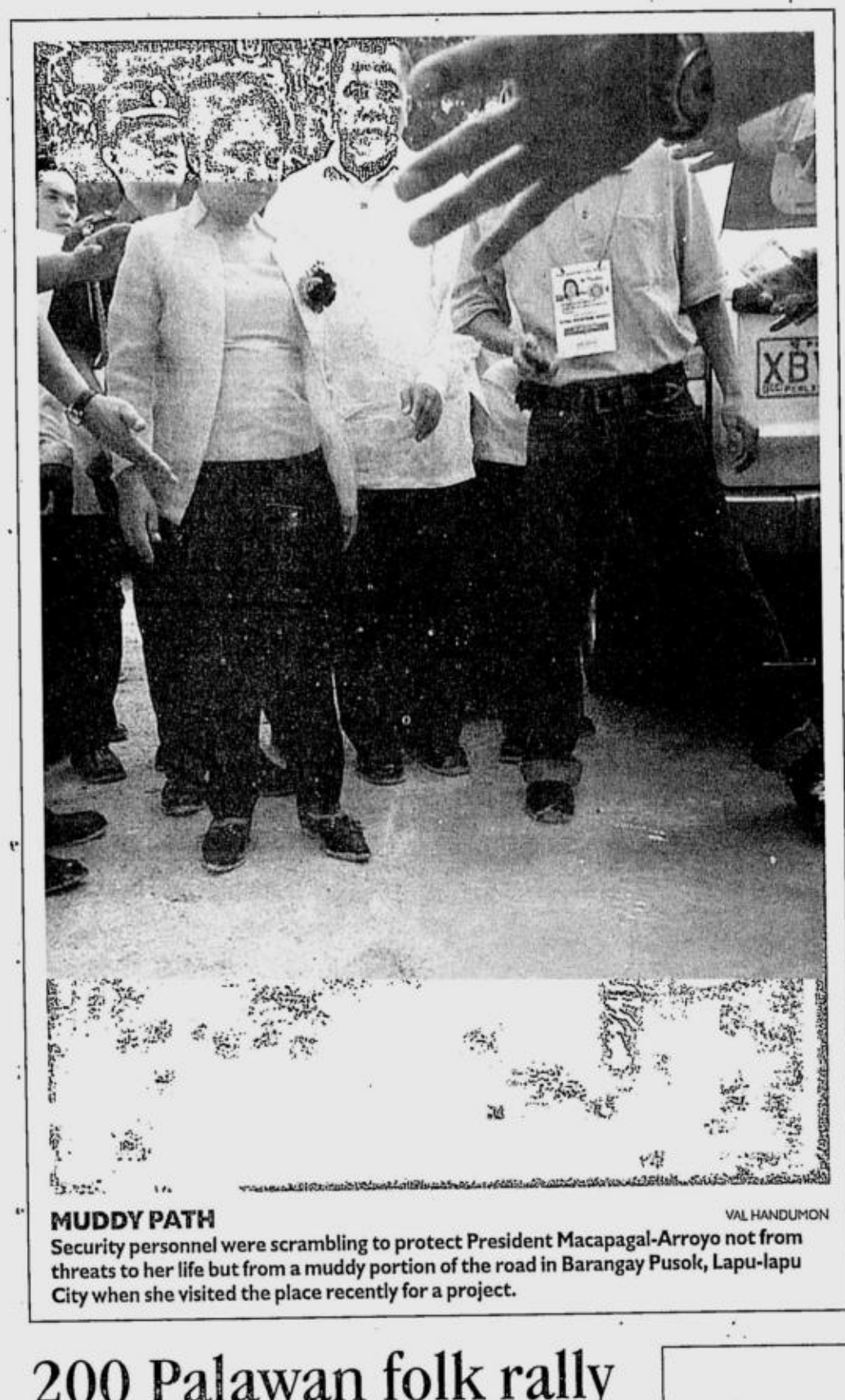
CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Army soldiers exhumed the remains of a suspected New People's Army officer in San Mariano town last week. Reports said the remains belonged to Wilfredo Valencia, political officer of the NPA's Cagayan Valley party committee. Valencia was killed in an encounter between Army soldiers and the NPA rebels in March last year at Barangay Ueg in San Mariano, according to Brig. Gen. Erickson Aurelio, 5th Infantry Division chief. Aurelio said the remains were dug up in Barangay Panninan in San Mariano, a few kilometers from the encounter site. He said Valencia was among those identified as the brains in the slaying of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, Jones Mayor Jesus Sebastian and Col. Josefino Manayao and 12 other soldiers in Jones, Isabela. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Stolen vehicle recovered

BANGUED, Abra—Police recovered a stolen vehicle from Lagayan Vice Mayor Joy Luna in Barangay Zone 7 here on Tuesday. Members of the police's Task Force Abra flagged down Luna's white Mitsubishi Adventure after they noticed that its plates lacked validating stickers for 2004. After verifying the car's documents, the police confirmed that the car was included in the list of wanted or stolen vehicles. It was reportedly stolen on May 30, 2003 in Quezon City. Jendricks Luna, husband of the vice mayor, said the car was offered as a collateral when an acquaintance's friend borrowed money from them in February this year. "It was guaranteed by a friend and it was in good faith that we agreed to accept it as a loan collateral," he said.
Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bomb scare at Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Employees of the Clark Development Corp. here vacated their offices on Tuesday after a caller claimed that a bomb had been planted and would explode in one of the CDC's buildings. The CDC security and fire department ordered all employees to leave their offices and called the Explosives and Ordnance Division of the Philippine Air Force's 710th Special Operations Wing based here to look for the bomb. But bomb experts did not find anything after searching the CDC buildings, including the office of CDC president Emmanuel Angeles. Roger dela Rosa, CDC telephone operator, said he received the prank call around 2:20 p.m. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



MUDDY PATH VAL HANDUMON

Security personnel were scrambling to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo not from threats to her life but from a muddy portion of the road in Barangay Pusok, Lapu-lapu City when she visited the place recently for a project.

NPAs launch simultaneous attacks in Sorsogon areas

STA. MAGDALENA, Sorsogon—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked Wednesday night a military detachment in Barangay San Isidro here, leaving a paramilitary man dead and bloodstains on their withdrawal route.

The rebels also harassed two other Army detachments in Matnog, Sorsogon but no casualty was reported.

In the Barangay San Isidro attack, some 30 to 40 NPA rebels attacked the detachment, some 15 to 20 kilometers from the town proper, and engaged the military men in a gunfight that started at around 11 p.m. and lasted up to early morning Thursday, a report said.

A brownout was also noted during the gunfight.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Pascual, head of the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army based in Juban, Sorsogon, said the military defended well and "(out)maneuvered" the rebels, causing them to withdraw.

"One of our men, a Cafgu, died but we have received through a radio combo that two of their men were also killed and they left a lot of bloodstains in their path," Pascual told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The military also recovered M-14 and M-16 rifles, 10 molotov cocktails and several hand grenades, he added.

While the Sta. Magdalena attack was going on, another group of NPA rebels opened fire at a military detachment in Matnog near the Globe cell site and another one in Barangay Laboy, same town, in a possible effort to divert and confuse the military reinforcement to the Sta. Magdalena detachment, according to Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police director.

No fatality was recorded as the rebels did not go near the detachments, according to reports.

"Apparently, the main concentration of the attacks was on Sta. Magdalena, the first rebel attack reported in the area, and the two other attacks were just diversionary," according to De los Santos.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) earlier called on its armed wing, the NPA, to intensify offensives against the military.

They could not immediately confirm the mode of transportation that the rebels used for the attacks but motorboats were possibly used, according to Pascual and De los Santos.

The military was conducting a pursuit operation while the police have set up checkpoints as of press time.

The communists are holding talks with the government for a peace agreement but the talks have bogged down following the listing of the NPA and the CPP as terrorist organizations.

The guerrillas protested the two groups' inclusion in the international list of terror organizations prepared by the US government and vowed to step up attacks on government targets.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had described the NPA as a terrorist organization. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Church confab to start in heart of Moro land

KORONADAL CITY—All roads lead to this bustling city for the Catholic Church's 12th Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference (MSPC) on Monday.

Some 200 archbishops, bishops, priests, nuns and lay people from Mindanao's 21 archdioceses, dioceses and prelatures would be converging here to discuss various issues affecting Mindanao.

Fr. Ben Torreto, director of justice and peace ministry of the Archdiocese of Cotabato, said the theme for this year's MSPC is "Peace and Good Governance."

"It is hoped that the life of the Basic Ecclesial Community (BECs) in Mindanao will be able to see, appreciate and be a venue towards creating a peaceful environment and implementing good governance," Torreto said.

Former Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president and Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI, DD will lead an 11-member delegate from the archdiocese, according to Torreto,

Fr. Torreto said that immediately after the MSPC, the Mindanao Social Action General Assembly would follow, which would also be held here.

Torreto said MSPC's objectives for this year are: to know and to integrate social action among BECs in Mindanao, to know and analyze the issues, concerns, responses and gaps in Mindanao and to come up with a two-year Mindanao social action plan. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

200 Palawan folk rally to claim fishing waters

BALABAC, Palawan—Police blocked more than 200 members of the Samahan ng Katutubo sa Dulo ng Timog Palawan (Sambilog) composed of Pala'wan and Molbog tribal folk, in this southernmost part of Palawan, during a protest action Saturday that they launched to reclaim what they said were their ancestral waters.

The group was accompanied by Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros and members of Task Force Bugsuk.

Senior Supt. Rey Lañada, provincial director, who led the policemen, came in a helicopter of the Jewelmer International Corp. (JIC), the company the group accused of prohibiting them from fishing in the waters.

"Our purpose is to fish again in our waters and pass through Pandanan Channel, which is our shortcut to [the] nearby islands," said Rudy Calo, Sambilog leader.

The activity was held in observance of the World Food Day and Indigenous Peoples Month.

The group, in more than 70 boats, traversed the sea for about an hour from Mariahangin Island to their claimed ancestral waters, 15 minutes from Pandanan Channel that lies between Bugsuk and Pandanan islands.

Following orders

"I am just doing my job as a law enforcer. The management said you cannot enter the channel or fish around," Lañada said.

"All that you have said will reach them [the JIC]," he added.

Art Palatino of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, with a technical map and some documents, explained to Lañada that the JIC was going beyond what is in the contract, which only covers 4,597 hectares.

But, he said, he was surprised to see thousands of buoys deployed by JIC in about 10,000 hectares. "There is a need to clarify the boundaries," Palatino said.

Hontiveros, who requested permission to look at the channel, confirmed that a blockade had been set up, composed of about 10 barges of the JIC, with each hanging a streamer. "No to poachers," one said. Some men appeared with "bonnets."

Hontiveros said the issue will be the subject of a congressional inquiry. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 traffic cops arrested for highway extortion

LEGAZPI CITY—Three members of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) based in Camarines Sur were arrested in an entrapment operation on Wednesday for extorting money.

The officers were arrested by members of the Philippine National Police regional command in Barangay Lanipga in Bula town, Camarines Sur.

Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, PNP regional director, identified the suspects as SPO1 Rodolfo Miranda, PO3 Danilo Manlolo and PO2 Joel Disamparo, all members of the Camarines Sur TMG.

The three were manning the Traffic Control Point at Bula in the said province.

A civilian identified as Choy Hugo was also arrested for alleged conspiring with the police officers.

Mosqueda said the suspects demanded and received five P100 bills in marked money from undercover operatives of the Regional Intelligence Office, 505th Provincial Police Mobile Group and Camarines Sur Regional Internal Affairs Service.

The operation came after some complaints against the so-called "kotong cops" in the area were reported.

Col. Jemar Modequillo, chief of the Bicol TMG, said he already ordered a thorough investigation of the extortion.

"I don't want to judge my men at once, it should be investigated. If it shows that they are really involved in such kind of activities, they would get their corresponding rewards," Modequillo told the INQUIRER.

"We're not tolerating such kind of activities and I'm requesting transport groups or drivers that if they have complaints against abusive TMG members who extort money, they can report it in my office and we will act on that immediately," he added.

Aside from criminal charges, Mosqueda said the police officers face administrative charges. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Love in wartime Bato

JAPANESE Imperial Army Capt. Katuisi Amano and Marcelina Sanchez in wartime Bato.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ENGR. PORFIRIO KUIZON

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Bato, Leyte

LOVE stories that were doomed by war have somehow surfaced as one researched through the history and culture of the Leyte-Samar region.

The memoir of Porfirio Kuizon in his 70s of Bato, Leyte, tells of a love story in his hometown during World War II.

Titled "The Good War," the memoir, seven pages of single-spaced text in fine print with some scanned pictures, includes a Who's Who list of elite families from Cebu City, war refugees who made Bato their "Little Cebu" and the Kuizons' poblacion residence as a half-way house.

The Kuizon patriarch, Segundo, was an apolitical community stalwart who owned the only high school in town before the war.

The memoir also tells of a string of love stories involving individuals from all sides of the conflict: Japanese-Filipina, three American guerrillas and their partners, and even the Kuizon siblings.

The more tragic love story involved the young Japanese commandant of the Bato garrison and the daughter of the town's wartime mayor. This was matched with an extant old picture of the two lovers.

Kuizon was 12 years old and in fifth grade when the war broke out in December 1941. Their teacher dismissed the class and the pupils cheered the unscheduled vacation, not knowing it would last more than three years.

The Japanese troops reached Bato in May 1942 and made a garrison out of its public school buildings.

Luckily for the town, the young Japanese commandant, Capt. Katuisi Amano, a graduate of an American university, was a fluent English speaker. He was also not the stereotyped Japanese officer (i.e., fanatically brutal and cruel).

Probably the same officer known in another document as "Col. Bo Tay" (i.e., bow tie, perhaps a signature wardrobe item), Amano appointed Ranulfo Sanchez as the town mayor.

Mayor Sanchez played his cards very well in dealing with Captain Amano and the Japanese troops in his town while maintaining regular contact with Filipino and American guerrillas throughout the war.

But the mayor did not really have to work hard to please the Japanese, because Amano soon fell in love with his 23-year-old daughter, Marcelina, who bore her father's good looks and fair complexion from a Spanish lineage.

Amano formally courted Marcelina and promised to marry her after the war.

Wartime heroine

Bato's wartime residents acknowledged Marcelina Sanchez as their heroine. Because of her, Captain Amano developed a soft spot for the town.

Despite several guerrilla attacks on the local garrison and on patrolling Japanese troops, there was no bloody retaliation against innocent local civilians, as had happened in other parts of the country.

Bato was a nerve center of the guerrilla movement in the southern part of Leyte Island.

The town did not have a known "collaborator" or Filipino spy for the Japanese. A peasant-type resident who started to become friendly with the Japanese was found stabbed dead in the street one evening.

As a result, prominent personalities such as pre-war Senate President Mariano J. Cento of Cebu, Sen. Carlos P. Garcia (later president) of Bohol, and Col. Rupert Angleton (the Leyte guerrilla leader who later became provincial governor, defense secretary and senator) could frequent the Kuizons' evacuation house a kilometer away from the poblacion without being detected by the Japanese.

As the chess player in the family, Kuizon had played games with Senator Garcia and Colonel Kangleon. He always beat Kangleon and he could beat Garcia when the senator played with a one-rook handicap.

Brush with the Japanese

Kuizon's household chore was running morning errands to the town market on his bicycle, a fancy vehicle at the time.

He had a brush with Japanese soldiers in town due to one such errand.

One morning, while he was biking to the market, a Japanese sergeant named Tanaka signaled Kuizon to approach him. The soldier then borrowed his bike and promised to return it at noon.

At around 4 p.m., when there was no sign of the sergeant or of the bike, Kuizon pleaded with his eldest brother, Anselmo, to accompany him to the Japanese garrison to reclaim his bike.

The brother first consulted the mayor and sought his advice before they went to see the Japanese.

At the garrison, Captain Amano called the involved sergeant and a private after he was briefed about the incident. Then in front of the awe-struck brothers, the Japanese private slapped the sergeant left and right many times and yelled reprimands at him while the commandant silently watched the process.

Kuizon got his bike back afterwards. But upon reaching the garrison's gate, the sergeant was there, waiting for him. In revenge, he slapped the boy once with all his might.

Stars flashed in the young Kuizon's mind from the slapping. But he did not fall down because he held on to this bike.

Kuizon has never forgotten Amano's kindness in entertaining a young boy's complaint. He mused that such gesture would not have been possible without the influence of the mayor and his daughter.

The return through Leyte of the US Allied Forces led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in October 1944 dashed all hopes of a Japanese-Filipina wedding in Bato after the war.

Captain Amano was killed along with his men during the Battle of Ormoc, about 90 km north of Bato. The battle was fought in December 1944.

The disconsolate Marcelina was informed about her fiancé's death by an officer of the Philippine Army, who had probably fought on the other side of the same battle.

Marcelina later got married to a fellow Bato resident. But the unhappy union did not last a year and the couple broke up.

In February 1987, during the centennial anniversary of the founding of Bato town, Marcelina and her father were each presented a "Century Award Certificate of Recognition" for their heroic deeds during the Japanese occupation.

Now 85 years old, in poor health, hard at hearing, and without a family of her own, Marcelina lives with a cousin in Iligan City.

She recently sent Kuizon a priceless memento of her life—her old photograph with Captain Amano, taken on a bright sunny day during tense but hopeful times on the seawall in Bato.

Revolutionary leader re-interred 100 years after death in Antique

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
San Jose, Antique

ANTIQUEÑOS marked the centennial death anniversary of revolutionary leader Gen. Leandro Fullon on Oct. 16, with the re-interment of his remains at the national shrine in his name at his hometown Hamtic, 7 km south of San Jose town, Antique.

The re-interment capped a three-day commemoration in the province that started on Oct. 14 with a vigil at the provincial capitol, where his remains were taken from the La Paz cemetery in Hamtic.

On Oct. 15, a motorcade accompanied the transfer of his remains from San Jose to the Hamtic covered court where it stayed overnight.

On Oct. 16, officials of Antique and representatives of the National Historical Institute led the rites, which started with a necrological program at 8 a.m. before the procession from the covered court to the Sta. Monica Parish Church.

After the Mass, a funeral procession followed from the church to the Gen. Leandro Locsin Fullon National Shrine at the town's public plaza for the re-interment. The remains were re-buried at the base of a monument of Fullon made by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

Born on March 13, 1877 in Hamtic, Fullon studied at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila, where he joined the Katipunan, shortly before the revolutionary government was being organized by President Emilio Aguinaldo.

He was appointed by Aguinaldo to lead an expeditionary force to Panay Island. He left on Sept. 6, 1898 from San Roque, Cavite with 140 officers and 340 men and arrived in Pandan on Sept. 21 where volunteers joined his forces.

He established a revolutionary government in Pandan with the election of local officials. He fought the Spanish forces that landed in the neighboring Culasi where he also formed a revolutionary government.

On Nov. 22, 1898, Fullon's forces captured San Jose, the provincial capital. He led the organizing of a provincial government.

When the revolutionary government in the Visayas was later organized, he was appointed politico-military governor of Antique.

He was in Iloilo when the Filipino-American War broke out and helped in the resistance together with Gen. Martin Delgado and other revolutionary leaders.

He returned to Antique in 1899 and led the resistance against American troops there starting in 1900. He surrendered on March 22, 1901 after his forces became weakened due to heavy casualties and battle losses.

After the civil government was organized, he was appointed on April 15, 1901, a post that he held until he died in Oct. 16, 1904.

On Nov. 14, 1982, the Batasang Pambansa passed B.P. 309 directing the National Historical Institute to transfer the remains of Fullon from the La Paz Cemetery in Hamtic and the erection of a shrine in his honor at the public plaza.

The law was introduced by Fullon's grandson, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador.

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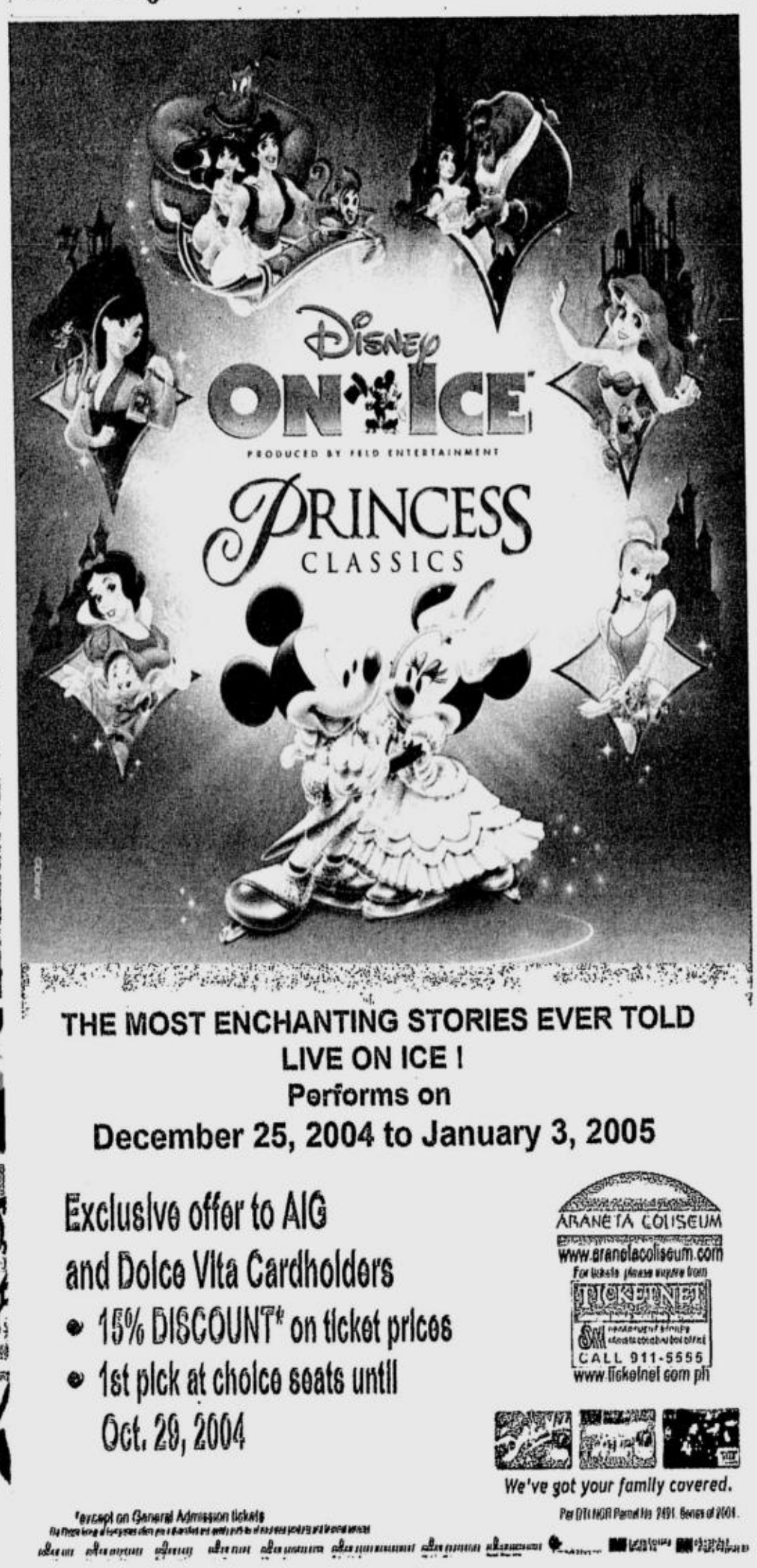

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Capiz stage set for 1st festival on 'aswang' myth

ROXAS CITY—The stage is set for the holding of the Aswang Festival in Capiz, the first of its kind to be held in the country.

Arnel Estiaga, board of director of Dugo Capiznon Inc., the non-government organization staging the event, said nothing could now stop the festivities, which are scheduled on Oct. 29 to 30.

"Everyone is free to join and witness the first-ever activities that can only happen and be seen in Capiz," he added.

Cecilia Azarcon-Doronila, president of the Dugo Capiznon, said all activities are open to the public and are free of charge.

Despite the initial opposition from some sectors, the festival now enjoys the support of local and church officials in Capiz, including the province's favorite son, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II.

Roxas sent a letter to Dugo Capiznon on Oct. 18, congratulating the group for having the courage and guts to host the event.

"It is an experience that celebrates life, as it opens opportunities to reconnect with our *kababayans* and to share and learn about our diverse culture and background," he said.

Source of income

The senator also said the festival will serve as a venue to showcase the local products and services that are distinctly Capiz.

Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario told a news conference on Wednesday that the festival would not only boost tourism in Roxas and Capiz but would also provide additional sources of income to the residents.

He said several national media outlets had signified their intention to cover the festival and that sponsors for the different activities had been coming in.

Msgr. Vicente Hilata, Mary Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral vicar general, called the festival innovative.

Hilata, also rector of the Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion, said the "aswang" myth is not real and only exists in the imagination.

The festival's worst critic is still Roxas City councilor Ramon "Monchit" Albar who did not like the use of the word "aswang" as a selling point.

"We are here to disprove such malicious and naughty allegation of "aswang" in Capiz" he said.

But Estiaga said the festival aims to showcase the "real" Capiz, capitalizing on the grotesque image that has for decades been associated with this otherwise beautiful and bountiful province.

Myths

One of the major activities of the two-day affair is a cultural show devoted to the mythical witches. This will be performed by the Sigmahanon Foundation under the directorship of Alphonsus Tesoro.

An exhibit, called "Bewitching Capiz", would showcase the best of the province's different towns. There would also be a symposium "Pagtukib sang Aswang"—discussions about the 'aswang' myth.

Another expected colorful activity in the festival is the "Bayo Kabalaghan sang Kapuyahan"—a children's Halloween masquerade ball featuring story-telling, games and other fun activities for kids. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'WORRYING, BAD SIGN'

Drop in sugar prices alarms producers

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Domestic sugar prices plunged Thursday bringing prices down from P780 per 50-kilogram bags last week to between P750 to P757 per bag this week, Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma said.

The P30 plunge was "worrying and a bad sign" for the sugar industry, said Ledesma, who on Tuesday had said he expected prices to drop by at least P10 per bag a week.

He said the sugar industry should launch a serious lobby for the passage by Congress of the taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, the so-called sin taxes, which President Macapagal-Arroyo has set as a precondition for the resumption of sugar buying by the government.

While in Bacolod on Tuesday, the President said that if the sin taxes bill is passed by December the National Food Authority could again go into sugar buying.

Oversupply

Sugar leaders have asked that the NFA go into sugar-buying this year to prevent a drop in domestic millgate prices below production cost, with an expected oversupply in production.

The prices dropped because the demand for sugar is low, said Ledesma. "It is a sign that the market cannot absorb sugar production that is going full blast," he added.

According to Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela, NFA officials told him that the last time they went into sugar buying to help the industry, they had a net loss of P6 to P8 million. If the NFA agrees to buy sugar again this year, he said, it is going to cost P1 billion.

"So, in other words, the President is saying don't ask me to spend money if we don't have a corresponding revenue measure," he said.

"So the *quid pro quo* is you work on your congressmen to pass the sin taxes and then we can send the right signals that we are doing something and now we can start spending a little," Coscolluela said.

Quid pro quo

Ledesma said the NFA intervention is just one of the solutions to decongest the domestic market of an expected glut in sugar supply.

Ledesma said that to address the problem, he would accelerate the classification of 10 percent of sugar produced as C or Reserve sugar by Nov. 1.

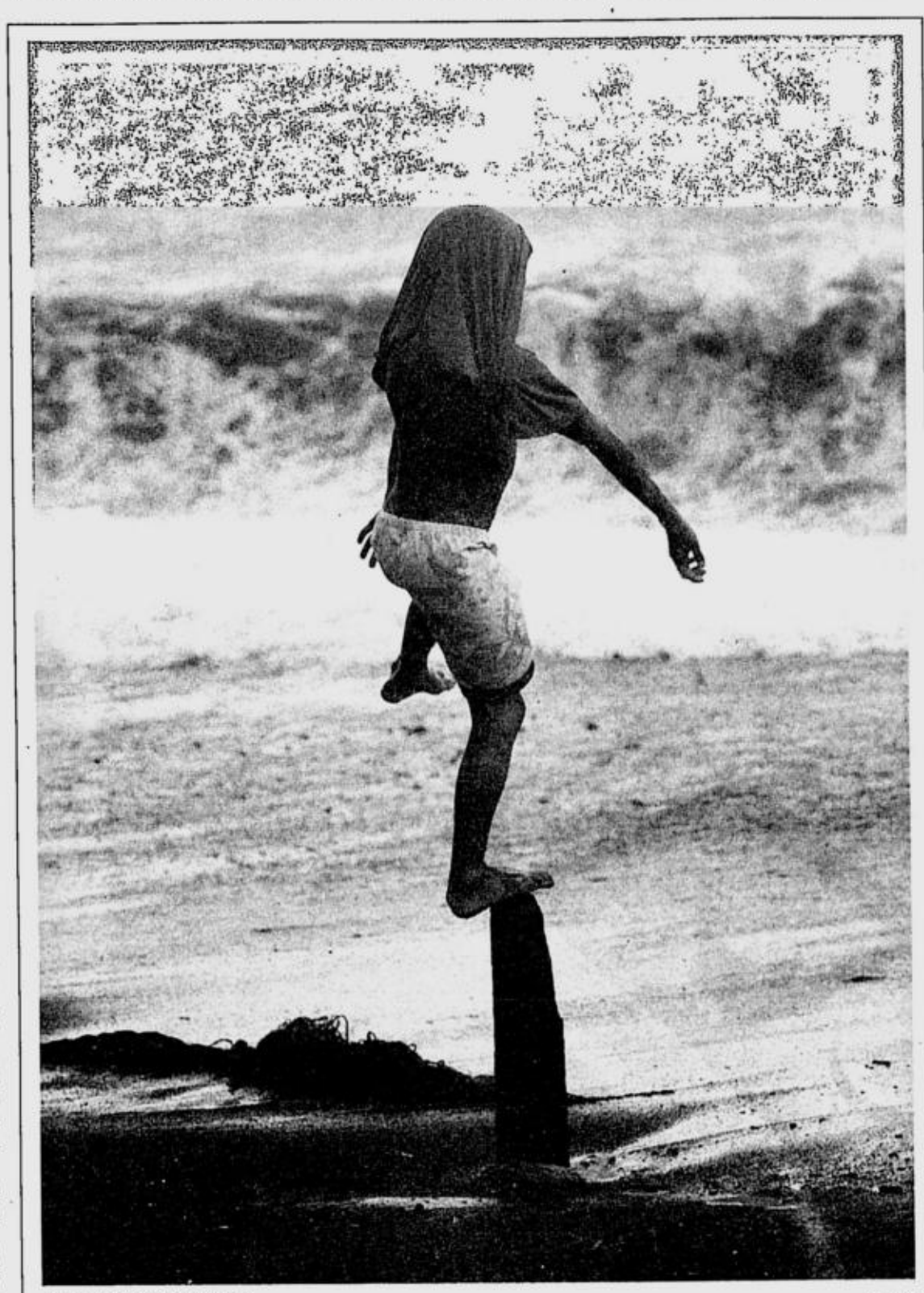
He said the SRA also plans to "lend" the C sugar to D for advance export.

Ledesma said that sugar exports—19,000 tons this month and another 21,000 tons next month—would help in the prices of domestic sugar with the removal of excess supply.

"Hopefully the prices will go up then," he said.

Franklin Fuentebella, chair of the Planters Association of Southern Negros, said that Thursday's domestic sugar at Victorias Milling Co. sold at P750 per bag and at the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Co. at P742, down by P28 from last week.

Some producers had complained of smuggling of sugar, blaming the smuggling for the continued drop in the prices of locally-produced sugar.



BALANCING ACT REUTERS
A child balances on what's left of the wooden foundation of their home in the remote coastal town of Labuan, Zamboanga City. The house had been swept recently by waves.

PCGG workers no match for Meldy as she goes to sequestered library

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Two Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) employees here were no match for former first lady Imelda Marcos.

The PCGG employees on Thursday tried to stop Mrs. Marcos from going inside and "inspecting" the People's Center and Library, which she built in 1981, but nothing could stop her from touring the sequestered facility, which she insisted is owned by the Romualdez family.

The former first lady, followed by two bodyguards, some female companions and a group of reporters, was about to enter the building on Thursday afternoon when she was met by two PCGG employees who told her that they were instructed by PCGG regional director Renoir Dauag not to allow her inside the library.

"But why?!" Mrs. Marcos protested. "I am a Romualdez. This place is owned by the Romualdezes and not by the PCGG. If you ask me to pay a fee just to enter the library, then I would do that," she told two female employees.

The Marcos widow then proceeded to the second floor of the building where the library was located.

Not only that Mrs. Marcos was able to tour the facility for almost two hours, she managed to hold an after-tour press conference at the library with members of the media who were present during her visit.

Mrs. Marcos expressed dismay over the shabby condition of many of the center's rooms, noting that they were not maintained and were slowly being eaten by termites.

The library has 24 big rooms that contained books, manuscripts and other reading materials.

The former first lady lamented that she received information that several manuscripts and books have been lost or taken away from the library.

She said that when she constructed the library in 1981, she placed there "over a million invaluable manuscripts and books."

"And now, I was informed there are just close to 250,000 books in this library which is the biggest in the entire country," she said.

"I was shocked and completely devastated that this library has not been taken care of and been robbed. This library contains invaluable manuscripts and books for us to show to the whole world what we have," she said.

Mrs. Marcos said she built the library for the benefit of the people of the Eastern Visayas region, especially those who could not afford to buy books and other reference materials.

"It was born out of my promised that the Waray people would not suffer as what I have suffered when I was still studying. During the war, I did not have books. I'm so sad. This is for the people... who will be losing here," she said.

She called on the government through the PCGG to lift the sequestration order so that she could rehabilitate the library as well as the Sto. Niño Shrine, which she called the "Romualdez Museum." Both massive buildings are located along Real Street of this city.

Renoir Dauag, when reached by the Inquirer at his office yesterday, admitted that he issued the order for Mrs. Marcos not to be allowed to enter the library because he learned that she was about to hold a press conference there.

Dauag, who was at the PCGG regional office along Jones Street here when Mrs. Marcos visited the center, said he had anticipated that Mrs. Marcos would attack the PCGG, which he said she did during the press conference.

"It was an insult to the government and the PCGG, the administrator of that property which is still under the control of the government," Dauag said.

Besides, he said, Mrs. Marcos did not seek permission from his office when she decided to visit and hold a press conference at the library.

According to Dauag, there is a policy that whenever Mrs. Marcos visits or stays in a place under sequestration she has to seek the PCGG's permission.

Man who raped daughter 1,000 times jailed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial prosecutor here on Wednesday filed a complaint of multiple rape and maltreatment against a tricycle driver in Mexico town, Pampanga who allegedly raped his 16-year-old daughter 1,000 times in a period of seven years.

The complaint, filed by Provincial Prosecutor Jesus Manarang, came a day after the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Social Welfare and Development rescued the girl from her father.

The girl said her father began abusing her when she was nine years old. The abuse was done on an average of four times a week, she said in her affidavit.

She said she did not report the abuse because her father threatened to kill her and her mother. The father used a gun or a knife whenever the abuse took place.

One of the girl's friends reported the abuse to the village chief, Benjamin Dayrit, after the victim told her friend that she would commit suicide because she could not take the abuses anymore.

The suspect is now detained at the provincial jail here.

According to NBI agents, the rescue mission ended in a tearful but happy note.

The girl's grandmother, who apparently knew of the abuse but failed to report it immediately to authorities, embraced one of the agents, and crying, thanked agents and social workers for freeing her granddaughter from years of "sexual slavery."

The agents said the neighbors clapped as the handcuffed suspect was ushered out the village.

The tricycle driver faces death penalty if convicted. Many inmates on death row awaiting execution had been convicted of rape. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Woman gives birth to triplets at Oriental Mindoro hospital

CITY OF CALAPAN—A casual employee of the Gloria Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office gave birth by ceaerian operation to healthy female triplets Wednesday at the charity ward of the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital (OMPH) here.

In the order of delivery, the triplets are Marian Mae, 2.5 kilograms; Marian Chie, 1.3 kg and Marian Kay, 2.7 kg. They are the fifth, sixth and seventh children of Mario and Mita Dimaala of Gloria town, 66 km from this city.

Gloria town was named after President Macapagal-Arroyo during the presidential term of her father.

"This was not in the plan, an accident. I thought that I'm already at my menopausal age. My children are already grown up," Mita, 43, said in Filipino.

"That was why she had a big stomach, it would be triplets," said one visitor.

Mita was sent to the OMPH by a medical hospital in Gloria last Sept. 29. She had her ultrasound and stayed until delivery.

Restless

"They said it would be two females and one child with undetermined gender.

But since it was restless, we thought it was a boy," said Mita.

She couldn't say yet until when she would stay in the OMPH.

"There are two twins in Mita's family; none in ours," said husband Mario, 43.

Their other children are Rio, 19, fourth year in BS Education at the Abada College in Pinamalayan town; Veda Aisa, 17, who stopped schooling at the Diosdado Macapagal National High School, second year and now helps in house chores; Mavic Ryan, 15, an epileptic child, first year high school at the Oriental Mindoro Institute in Gloria; Iris Mae, 8, who goes to the Balite Elementary School.

Rio looks after the other siblings while their parents are out.

When Rio visited his sisters yesterday, Veda acted as the oldest.

"It's a heavy responsibility," said Mario, a fisherman, when asked for comment.

He said life is difficult. "Sometimes, we take breakfast and lunch at the same time."

Small house

The Dimaala family owns a 96-square-meter house in Gloria, courtesy of the DSWD.

"We'll work hard, it's already here. My officemates help me," Mita said.

She has worked as a casual employee at the MSWD in Gloria for six years already, receiving about P120 per day.

"Walang item," she explained why she couldn't be permanent.

Mita had only been absent from work for one week before she was confined at the OMPH.

Instead of seeking support, Mita has this to say: "I realized that a woman should never forget that while she still has menstruation, married and don't use contraceptives, she will get pregnant. I was not careful because I thought I was already menopausal and the children are already grown up. We really planned for only four. A couple should really be extra careful."

Mita said she had to be ligated after giving birth to the triplets. "I really don't favor ligation. Natural family planning is better."

Many people come to the ward to see the triplets.

"Ang cute! Ang lusog," are common comments. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Aide's son claims he owns cocks on Reyes lot

From page A1

1997, he learned from his father about Reyes' problem regarding the influx of squatters invading the property of the secretary's parents at Moonwalk Village.

At that time, Tabas said, he was looking for a vacant property where he could relocate the 12 fighting cocks that he owned.

"When I heard that there was a vacant lot in Parañaque, I asked my father if I could use it to take care of my roosters," he said.

Tabas said he was glad that Reyes agreed to let him keep the fighting cocks in the lot because it gave him the chance to expand his gamefowl hobby into a small business.

"I am embarrassed that this happened to Secretary Reyes. I just wished no one would believe those trying to ruin his name," Tabas said.

Tabas said the lot area was only 3,000 sq. meters. He also said that the business was not registered and that he was allowed to "just use the lot because it was vacant."

He confirmed that there were about 70 tied roosters and about two dozen others freely roaming in the area. He said he had several breeds there, among them sweaters, hatches and lemons.

But if he had to join a derby, Tabas said he would always look for "financiers" to pay the pot and entry fee.

"We have made a good score lately," he said.

Self-sufficient

Tabas, who lives with his parents in Camp Aguinaldo, said he was earning enough "to be self-sufficient."

He said the cocks were marketed according to age group. Roosters below 12 months old are priced at P4,000 per head, he said., while those aged between 14 months and two years are sold from P6 million up. The stags are sold from P8,000 or higher, Tabas also said.

The older Tabas worked under Reyes in 1995, when Reyes was the commanding general of the 5th Division. Reyes, who became AFP chief of staff in 1999, later appointed Tabas chief of the AFP logistics center.

"THAT'S mine," Carl Tabas claims ownership of the cock breeding farm on property owned by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes. Tabas is the eldest son of Col. Felipe Tabas, a close Reyes aide and former military logistics chief.

While top . . .

From page A1

The Philippine Military Academy, which marks its 106th foundation day today, has incurred a P65-million budget deficit since the middle of the year, prompting its officials to cut out some employee incentives, including bonuses, and impose cost-cutting measures, according to sources in the military.

The deficit "has been accumulating" for several years, according to the source who said the issue was the subject of a top-level conference at the Armed Forces headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo about two months ago.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach PMA Supt. Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing.

The government spends at least P2 million for the four-year education of each PMA cadet who, upon graduation, is commissioned into the Armed Forces as a regular in the officers corps.

Last year, the PMA was given a budget of P514 million, P456 million of which was earmarked for military education and for the training of cadets, P52 million for administration support and P5 million for a computerization project.

No more parades

Among the items to be affected by the cost-cutting measures will be the traditional participation of the PMA cadets in the Independence Day parade at the Rizal Park in the Luneta every June 12 and the Armed Forces Day parade at Camp Aguinaldo every Dec. 21.

During the conference on the PMA budget deficit, some officers suggested that the PMA could sell some of its land to defray the cost of maintaining the academy.

"There was a feeling that the deficit would widen and it may become uncontrollable, considering the financial crisis," said one officer.

To prevent this occurring, it was suggested that some portions of the sprawling PMA campus outside Baguio City be sold, he said.

However, discussions about the idea was suspended after some of the older officers became "very emotional," said the source.

Tourist attraction

The PMA campus, located at Fort del Pilar in Loakan, about 7 km from Baguio City, covers an area of 373 hectares. Sited in a beautiful mountain setting with commanding views of the Cordilleras, the property has potential for commercial and tourist development. The academy itself is something of a tourist attraction, with crowds visiting it on Sundays to watch the cadets march and show off their skills in the Parade Ground.

Another issue

The deficit, however, is just one of the issues worrying the PMA.

Named after the young hero of the Battle of Tirad Pass, Gen. Gregorio del Pilar, the academy was patterned after the elite US Military Academy at West Point, aimed at providing a well-rounded education for the country's soldiers.

A senior Army colonel noted, however, that the PMA's character as an elite institution of learning has been eroded in recent years.

"We are no longer attracting the best and the brightest," he said.

The colonel noted that up until the 1990s, the academy was attracting "quality students from both public and private high schools."

Only 5% passed

But in the last entrance examination that the PMA gave in September, only 5 percent, or 483, passed out of a total of 9,511 examinees.

The colonel noted that this was despite the passing grade being lowered to 60 percent from 75 percent.

PMA spokesperson Ltsg. Alvin Lopez said about half of those who passed may yet fail the medical examinations.

On Dec. 29, the PMA will be holding a special entrance examination to widen its bench of freshman cadets.

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Flower mart blooms in park setting

By Tarra V. Quismundo

METRO Manila's best, brightest and cheapest blooms are now better appreciated and displayed in a colorful park setting smack in the middle of an urban jungle of concrete and steel.

The famed Dangwa and Dimasalang flower center in Manila's Sampaloc district was formally opened yesterday as the Bulaklakan ng Maynila, an organized flower market where order has replaced what had been a chaotic wholesale and retail floral strip.

THE DANGWA Flower Market in Dimasalang, Manila, gets a new look just in time for All Saints Day. The market has been a popular source of blooms for bulk or retail flower shoppers. ERIK ARAZAS

Winners all

"Business here will double, the city will gain more taxes, and customers will be able to shop in a more organized atmosphere. Everybody gains from this project," said Mayor Lito Atienza, himself a fan of shirts with a flower motif.

In the past, the strip had acquired a shabby façade despite the presence of the bright-hued blooms.

Hawkers had parked themselves in the middle of the road, and run-down stalls hugged both sides of the street.

With the new improvements, a 130-meter portion of Dos Castillas Street was opened up to make it easier for pedestrians to buy flowers from stalls that have offered their wares to the public since the '70s.

"Flowers provide life and color, and give off a positive energy. I see this place expanding to other streets on its own. Eventually this area will become a sub-district," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

The launch came just in time for All Saints Day, when the Catholic faithful remember their dead, as bulk or retail flower shoppers annually flock to this two-lane street to purchase flowers days before Nov. 1.

The city's flower market has been a popular source of flowers for retail shops around Metro Manila, and is a drop-off area for flower traders from the cities of Baguio, Tagaytay and Cebu, and Los Baños, Laguna, among others.

"It's time for government to give vendors a rightful place to sell their flowers," Atienza said.

"Manila has the only flower market in the metropolis where people can buy the cheapest flowers," he proudly said, before walking down the flower strip for the blessing of the new Bulaklakan.

Like Manila's recently "pedestrianized" areas—Rizal Avenue and portions of the Pasig River bank in the city's downtown area—a part of Dos Castillas Street, from its end on Maria Clara Street, through Dimasalang and Laong Laan Streets, was closed to traffic and its roads paved with bright yellow and red bricks.

At night, the strip is lit by lampposts with distinct floral designs, flanked by benches for weary shoppers or passersby.

New look

On either side of the strip, some 84 yellow-roofed stalls, including outlets shared by several vendors and spaces for individual vendors had been built, displaying orderly rows of roses in different varieties, colorful Malaysian mums, orchids and other ornamentals, floral arrangements, and flower baskets and accessories.

City Hall said some 200 vendors would be occupying the sidewalk stalls, rented out by the city government for P200 a day.

Those renting smaller stalls, on the other hand, pay a daily fee of P50.

In the past, vendors rented front yards of houses in the area where they had set up their makeshift flower stalls.

"The new look is certainly attractive to customers since it doesn't have the noise and the cluttered look of a public market anymore," said Leticia Seducon, who has been selling flowers on Dos Castillas Street for the past six years.

Martinez slay suspect faces murder charge

By Tarra V. Quismundo

JUNE Felizardo, a suspect in the killing of police Supt. Manolo Martinez, has been charged with murder before the Manila Prosecutor's Office after inquest proceedings Thursday night.

No bail was recommended for Felizardo by inquest prosecutor Arthur Velasco. The 28-year-old suspect is believed to be among at least five men who shot Martinez, newly installed Western Police District Sta. Mesa Station chief, Monday morning. Martinez, 54, died of multiple gunshot wounds after he was shot at the parking lot of the Sta. Mesa police station in broad daylight.

Martinez is set to be given honors fit for a hero, including a gun salute, before he is cremated today. His body was brought to the Western Police District headquarters at the United Nations Avenue yesterday afternoon as colleagues mourned the loss of a veteran policeman and officials vowed to go after his killers.

Displayed on top of his coffin was a certification that said he had donated his two corneas to the eye bank.

Felizardo was arrested in an alleged safehouse in Pangarap Village, Lower Tawi-Tawi in Caloocan City, at dawn on Wednesday with another minor. The 15-year-old suspect had been released for lack of evidence.

With Leila B. Salaverria

Eviction notices for rail folk

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE NATIONAL Housing Authority will start serving notices of eviction next week to Malabon City residents who face relocation because of the Northrail Project.

Residents affected by the displacement will be given 30 days to voluntarily dismantle their houses after receiving the notice, NHA sector manager Maria Theresa Oblipias told the INQUIRER.

The demolition was earlier scheduled on Nov. 15, but disagreements about the site had again delayed the relocation of almost 4,000 affected families.

Oblipias said they would also hold assemblies in the barangays starting Tuesday to discuss the issue. Residents and government officials have not yet agreed on a relocation site to date.

The NHA had already narrowed down the options for Malabon City residents to just two: Avail of the "balik probinsiya" program (receive P50,000 without government relocation), or be relocated to the already developed Towerville site in Bulacan.

Many residents had already rejected this site, saying this was far from their workplaces.

New meter testing sites opened

By Clarissa S. Batino

THREE new sites were opened by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for taxi cab operators whose units need meter calibration, testing and sealing.

One is near the Aseana Business Park on Diosdado Macapagal Ave., another is at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the third one is at Fort Bonifacio.

LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said the agency would do the calibration in these sites starting today until Oct. 27. Its head office is open for assessment and payment of fees for the new taxi fare increase today and tomorrow, she added.

To put some order into the process, Bautista said the calibration site assignments were alphabetical based on the first letter of the taxi operator's surname.

Surnames starting from letters A to C should go to Fort Bonifacio, those starting from D to M should go to Diosdado Macapagal and those with surnames starting from N to Z should proceed to the CCP.

Bautista said the calibration of the 42 registered cabs should be completed during the set dates. Last week, only about 4,000 units were calibrated. Taxi drivers whose meters have not yet been calibrated would have to charge customers using the old rates.

No transport strike for now

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GOOD start.

This was how Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) officials described the first of a series of meetings with leaders of transport groups who threatened to hold a strike because of the agency's strict policies.

"It was a healthy discussion and all problems were presented," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said. "We would still have a few more sessions, and I'm confident that we will find good solutions to the issues raised."

The transport groups had earlier threatened to hold a nationwide strike if the MMDA refuses to stop the implementation of its programs such as the anti-colorum drive and the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket (MTT) scheme.

Fernando said he had already directed his enforcers to defer the impounding of illegal vehicles under the anti-colorum drive while meetings between the concerned parties are ongoing. But the MMDA chair refused to suspend the MTT scheme, saying the new system was already operational and the old redemption centers had been disbanded. "We are no longer capable of holding licenses as in the old scheme," Fernando said.

Under the MTT scheme, motorists could pay their fines in any Metrobank branch instead of going to redemption centers to get their licenses back.

As for motorists' complaints that some Metrobank branches had been charging them P15 as a service fee, Fernando said bank officials admitted there were some lapses in the system.

Underpass troublemakers

A SERIES of stone throwing incidents at the Edsa-Crossing underpass off Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City caused a lot of headaches for three motorists yesterday.

The victims were Tilak Sen of the Asian Development Bank, Venancio Nicolas and Joan Mahusay, whose windshields were damaged by concrete slabs apparently thrown at their vehicles while they were driving through the underpass.

Vendors Roberto Magleo and Armando de Leon told police that they saw Albert Apiladas do it. Police chased the suspect until they caught up with him. Apiladas is now facing charges of malicious mischief. Police Inspector Augusto Swing said they had already deployed mobile patrol units to the area on a 24-hour watch for troublemakers.

Ruth L. Navarra

Honest QC cop cited

By Tina G. Santos

THE QUEZON City government has commended an honest police officer from the Central Police District for returning a shoulder bag containing $6,000 and other valuables to its owner.

Commended by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte was SP02 Alfredo de Jesus Lopez, assigned at the Special Traffic Assistance Group based at the Quezon City Hall Complex Police Office.

The mayor said Lopez's honesty, exemplary performance and dedication to duty led to the immediate return of the bag to its owner, Cindy Vijandre of P. Tuazon Street, Cubao. Vijandre lost her bag at a beauty parlor, but it was recovered by Lopez who saw the suspected robbers with the bag while he was cruising in his patrol car. The two suspects fled after Lopez fired a warning shot.

Prostitution den raids: Let him without sin...

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

BURGLARS stole P10 million in cash from the house of beleaguered Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia at Camp Aguinaldo.

A case of stolen money being stolen from the thief.

* * *

But the P10 million cash stolen from Garcia's house is peanuts compared to the money he has stolen from the government.

The Garcias have bank accounts running to hundreds of millions of pesos in the country and the US. The government can never recover the huge amount from the Garcias.

It seems the Garcias were faster and more clever than our prosecutors when it came to hiding the stolen money.

All the bank accounts of the Garcias in the country were closed early this month.

So, while the prosecutors were talking about recovering the money and announcing their plan to the media, the Garcias withdrew all their cash from the banks.

If that is to be any indication, the plunder case to be filed against Garcia will come to naught. We have a bunch of prosecutors who are intellectually inferior to Garcia.

During the plunder case trial, Garcia will run circles around the government prosecutors.

* * *

I agree with Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman that media people should respect the privacy of women caught working in prostitution dens.

TV news footage and newspaper photos sometimes show suspected prostituted women covering their faces after being caught in a raid or being investigated at the police station.

My colleagues in media should respect the privacy of suspected prostitutes. If they cover their faces, lay off them. They, too, have rights.

These women are victims of society, in general, and poverty, in particular. What woman in her right mind would sell her body if she didn't need the money?

Besides, let's not be hypocrites. The cops who arrested the suspects were probably their customers the day before. Even the media men who took photos or TV footage of the women could have been at the raided prostitution den days earlier.

Baka hindi lang sila nalibre kaya sila nagalit.

* * *

I remember when I was a police reporter in the late 1970s up to the late 1980s, Manila policemen would raid a disco house that showed women caught dancing naked on stage.

The women would be herded into the police station, their thumbprints and photographs taken. The girls would be released after their employer posted bail for them.

I bet you that several days before, that same woman was arrested by the Novaliches policemen either for prostitution or for exposing herself inside a beerhouse.

* * *

What did the Christ say to people who were about to stone a suspected adulteress to death?

"Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

So to the cops who arrest suspected prostitutes and media men who try hard to reveal the faces of the hapless women during a raid or at the police station: *hindi ba kayo nahihiya sa sarili n'yo!*

MCU COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Four generations of Tanchocos (from left) Estela Cruz-Tanchoco, MCU Exec. VP & COO Luningning Estanislao, MCU President Dr. Lualhati Tanchoco-Gonzales, and Project Manager of MCU centennial celebration Filemon Tanchoco III received their framed copies of the first edition of the Manila Central University Commemorative Stamp launched recently at the Manila Hotel. The stamp, bearing the image of the school side by side with the statue of Minerva, mythical Roman goddess of wisdom, was issued as part of MCU's centennial celebration.

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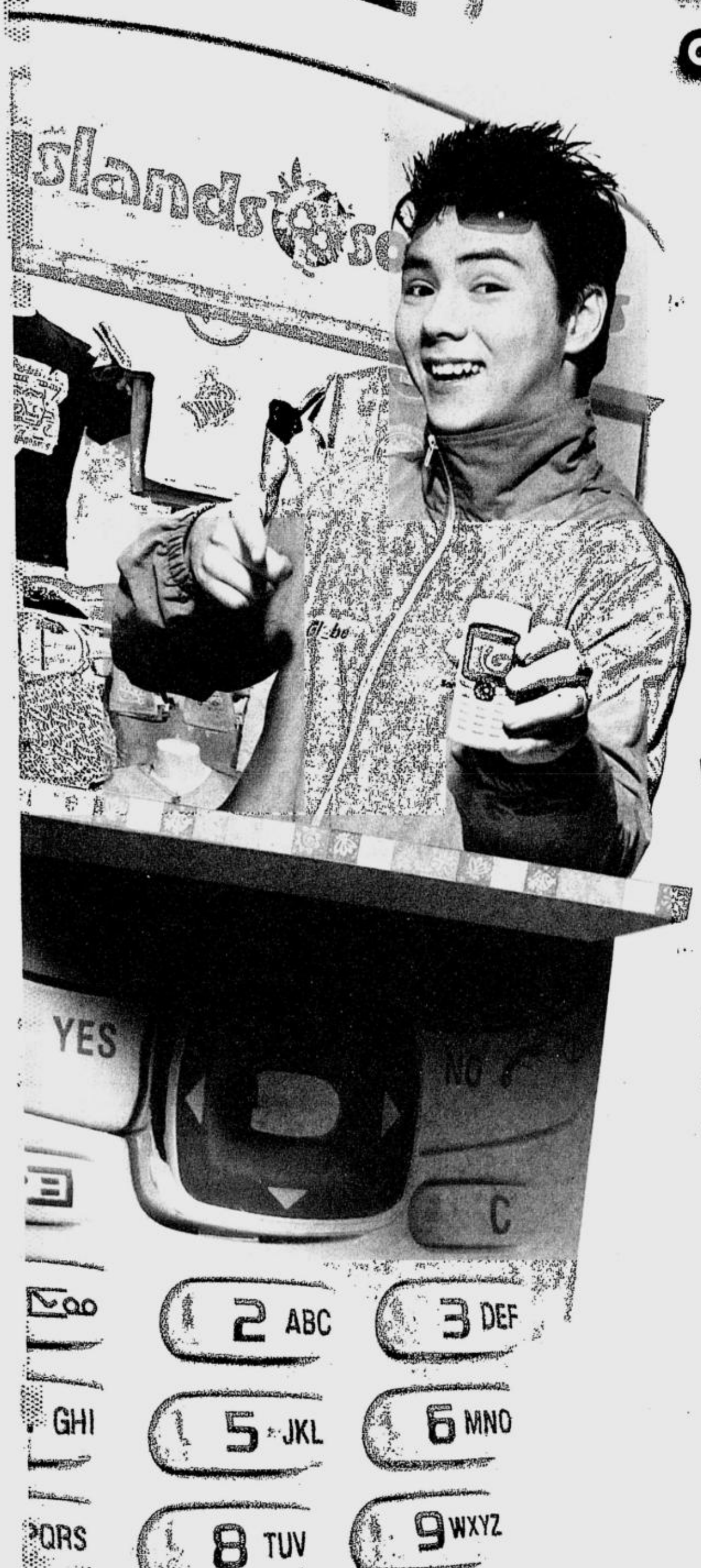

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PBA: Asi damage suit will seal 'Fil-sham' case

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association yesterday said the P1.2 million damage suit filed by Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava against the league will help lay to rest all doubts on the "Fil-sham" controversy.

PBA chair Buddy Encarnado said the league welcomes Taulava's lawsuit, but is putting its foot down on the five other foreign-born players who were earlier ordered deported by the Department of Justice for faking their citizenship documents.

"It (damage suit) will finally put an end to this dragging issue because if the case is already in court, then a decision will have to be made," said Encarnado.

Taulava on Thursday filed the case against Encarnado, PBA commissioner Noli Eala and the league's Board of Governors for suspending him from playing even without a notice from the Justice department ordering his deportation.

Taulava filed the case before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

In a petition for injunction, Taulava

PBA/ A26

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Dayrit an inspiration, says Cojuangco; critic Go thinks otherwise

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOSE "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday rallied the entire sports sector to be inspired by Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit's decision to set aside personal considerations for the common good.

But athletics chief Go Teng Kok said Dayrit was a "big disappointment."

Cojuangco, the next POC president, hailed Dayrit, who stepped aside in favor of the veteran politician, as a true statesman.

"Cito's act of setting aside personal considerations should inspire everyone to be united and rally around RP sports," Cojuangco said in a statement.

He said "unity is the single most powerful driving force that can restore the glory of sports in the country."

However, Dayrit's chief critic Go expressed disappointment that Dayrit didn't choose to run in the elections and witness "what could have the most lopsided POC elections in history."

"There are a lot to be said against the man," said Go, whom Dayrit defeated in 2000 (22 votes to 11) and has since become his arch-critic. "But I choose to reserve all these things to myself and not spoil the victory earned by Philippine sports.

At the Scoop sa Kamayan session yesterday, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain lauded Dayrit's decision to pave the way for Cojuangco as the next POC president.

Buhain said Dayrit proved to be a "true gentleman and sportsman" even as he welcomed Cojuangco's assumption which he said is vital in attaining peace and unity in Philippine sports.

Cojuangco made special mention of efforts of Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, who he said served as conduit with Dayrit during several weeks of intense backdoor negotiations.

EDWIN BACASMAS

COJUANGCO: Dayrit a true statesman.

"The first major step has been taken and I am confident that we can finally embark on our journey (to win the overalll championship in the SEA Games), Conjuangco said. "Preparations must now start."

Palace wants full-time effort for SEA Games

MALACAÑANG has issued a buckle-down-to-work order for a successful 2005 Southeast Asian Games after elections in the Philippine Olympic Committee had been settled.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita stressed there would be no stopping the country's preparation for the 2005 Games which, he said, won't be affected by the current fiscal problems.

He directed the Department of Public Works and Highways to set aside P50 million to rehabilitate venues in Metro Manila, Cebu and Bacolod.

Ermita made the assurance during an inter-agency briefing at the Malacañang Guest House attended by Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee chair Roberto Pagdanganan, Philsoc president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

Ermita announced President Arroyo has issued Executive Order 126 ordering all concerned government agencies to coordinate with the Philsoc toward an "efficient, smooth organization and successful holding of the 23rd SEA Games next year." *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Limpot lifts TJ Hotdogs past Realtors

By June Navarro

JUN Limpot spewed extra fierceness to key Purefoods' thrilling win over the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 89-87, last night as the TJ Hotdogs broke out of a skid in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Philsports Arena.

After repeated conversions from the perimeter, Limpot capped his heroics with two decisive moves in the stretch to lead the TJ Hotdogs to a third victory after dropping their last two games.

Talk 'N Text hardly missed Asi Taulava as the Phone Pals zoomed to their fifth straight win at the expense of Coca-Cola, 96-77, in the second game.

Vic Pablo had a career-high 27 points for the Phone Pals, who sent the Tigers to their second loss in five games.

Limpot buried a floater that pushed Purefoods head, 87-85, before swatting Marlou Aquino's shot in the next play.

"(Jun) Limpot took over when the game was on the line; that proved crucial for us," said coach Ryan Gregorio.

Noy Castillo and Limpot paced the Hotdogs with 20 points each to complement Kerby Raymundo, who had 11 points and 14 rebounds.

The Realtors had a chance to send the match into overtime but Kenneth Duremdes, who had 37 points, failed to shoot before the final buzzer. They fell to 0-4.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 89—Limpot 20, Castillo 20, Evangelista 17, Demapa 12, Raymundo 11, Artadi 5, Hrabak 2, Yee 2, Yap 0, Realubit 0, Patrimonio 0.

STA. LUCIA 87—Duremdes 37, Espino 17, Aquino 14, Mendoza 7, Gonzales 4, Santos 3, Francisco 3, Victolero 2, Cuan 0, Omolon 0.

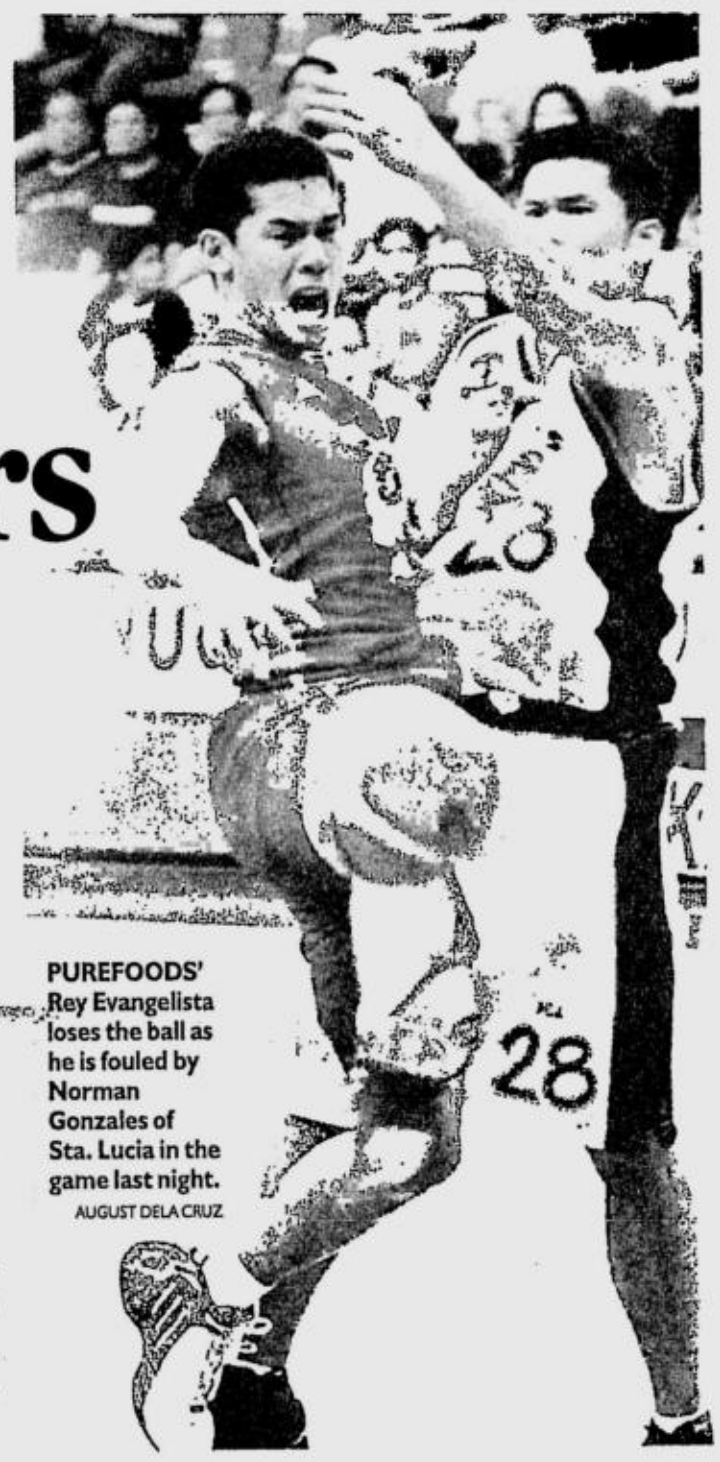
Quarters: 21-20, 43-42, 67-69, 89-87

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 96—Pablo 27, Miller 19, Camaso 13, De Ocampo 11, Alapag 10, Fran 5, Belano 4, Salangsang 3, Gelig 2, Ravena 2.

COCA-COLA 77—Juinio 20, Wainwright 17, Lao 10, Cariaso 10, David 4, Hugnatan 4, Abarrientos 4, Antonio 3, Chia 2, Ramos 1, Reavis 1, Morano 1.

Quarters: 24-15, 45-35, 69-58, 96-77



PUREFOODS' Rey Evangelista loses the ball as he is fouled by Norman Gonzales of Sta. Lucia in the game last night.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Suico stakes OPBF crown; Rolly Lunas fights again

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAPU-LAPU CITY—World Boxing Council No. 2 and reigning Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation superfeatherweight king Randy "Komong Bato" Suico stakes all the marbles when he defends his title for the third time against Indon Ibrahim Aroby at the sports complex of this resort city tonight.

SUICO: Redemption

It will be a battle of sharp, solid punching against swiftness as Suico puts on the line his 21-1 (18 KOs) record against the fast-moving Aroby, the OPBF No. 3 contender with a 18-1-2 win-loss-draw slate.

Both Suico and Aroby tipped the scales at an exact 130-lb during a special weigh-in held yesterday and supervised by GAB officials at the upscale Ching Palace restaurant in Lahug, Cebu.

Suico, who had earlier vowed to stop Aroby in five, also seeks to rebound from a controversial split decision loss suffered in the hands of South African Mzonke Fana, the No. 1 WBC contender, last May in a WBC-mandated eliminator to determine the next challenger to WBC champ Erik Morales. The WBC has decided to retain Suico's No. 2 position, citing the disputable outcome.

Should Morales decide to move up in weight and relinquish his world 130-lb crown, a grudge rematch between Suico and Fana would be staged to fill the void.

An explosive undercard features Wakee Salud gunslinger and Philippine No. 2 superfeatherweight Dexter Delada against journeyman Al Deliguer. Should Delada prevail, he would meet RP champ Bobby Pacquiao on Dec. 4.

Former Pan-Asia Boxing Association flyweight champ Rolly Lunas, now based in Cebu, takes on RP no. 1 superbantam Jake Verano in another tenner.

Other bouts pit Gilbert De la Torre vs RP No. 9 minifly Ricardo Albia; Roland Econas vs Aya Naranjo; JR Sollano vs Jun Aguilan; Gabriel Pumar vs Wine Bartiquil; and Alex Aroy vs Rex Madrid.

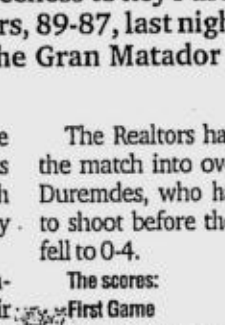
PBA: Asi damage suit will seal . . . From page A25

asked the court to order the PBA to pay the amount of P500,000 in actual damages, P500,000 in moral damages and P200,000 in attorney's fee.

Aside from Taulava, Eala also suspended Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi and Jon Ordonio of Red Bull, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola and Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano.

"Now that the case is in court, I'm not going to speculate and let the wheels of justice take over," said Encarnado.

"The decision of the commissioner stays until such a time the board repeals it. I just hope the player and franchise involved will come to their senses and settle this among ourselves," said Encarnado.


ENCARNADO

Encarnado added his team, Sta. Lucia Realty, was the recipient of unfavorable decisions of the commissioner in the past but in the spirit of the PBA's tradition, the team abided by the ruling.

"It's the camaraderie and brotherhood atmosphere that counts in the PBA," said Encarnado. "The interests of the board must prevail."

Taulava, who stated in his petition that he is a Filipino citizen, claimed that Eala prematurely committed grave abuse of discretion when he issued a memorandum dated Oct. 19 ordering his indefinite suspension.

Taulava claimed he was not given due process, saying the memorandum was served to him two hours before his team was scheduled to play in Dumaguete City last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said Eala should not be confused by his order for the pro league to submit the names of other suspected "Fil-shams."

Eala had said that it was not the PBA's job to submit the names of suspected players.

However, Gonzalez retorted that he issued the order to Eala only after PBA board member Lito Alvarez of FedEx told the INQUIRER that there were other players suspected of having falsified their citizenship documents.

In fact, Gonzalez said he has even learned from the PBA about one player suspected of having faked his citizenship. *With a report from Tina G. Santos and Philip Tubeza*

He saw the futility of it all

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF it is true that Philippine Olympic Commmittee president Cito Dayrit has conceded the presidential fight to Peping Cojuangco *(Cojuangco said so yesterday; see related story on this page—Ed)*, he has merely confirmed what has been widely rumored as his eventual withdrawal from the polls next month.

As early as last month, the election has been nothing but moot and academic. Why, because with at least more than half of the voters openly throwing their support behind Cojuangco, it became just a matter of time before Dayrit would kiss his throne goodbye.

But Dayrit foisted his troubles upon himself. He allowed himself to be alienated from the very people whom he would have to lean on for support in the eventuality of a head-on collision in his re-election bid. One of them was the feisty Go Teng Kok, GTK to his friends, who used to be a Dayrit ally. Dayrit had earned GTK's ire not long after the former fencing chief had grabbed power over an issue that is a no-no in Philippine culture.

I was told Dayrit had refused GTK's request that Dayrit stand as principal sponsor in the wedding of GTK's daughter, Rebecca, in 1999.

For nights, GTK couldn't sleep a wink.

Rebecca, a mother of one, is now a full-fledged doctor of medicine, placing No. 9 in the board exams. Her husband, Dexter (Lee), is now taking up his doctorate degree in economics at America's prestigious Wharton.

Cito cannot afford the embarrassment of seeing himself getting routed by Peping next month that's why he has to back down.

Also presently, he is president of the SEA Games Federation. If he is not POC president anymore when the SEA Games event is held here next year, he'll just be a lame duck executive in the biennial meet.

The truth is, Dayrit had offered Cojuangco the presidency of the POC many, many months ago. At first, Cojuangco balked. But when Peping finally decided to run, Dayrit countered he had reconsidered his decision and said he would seek reelection.

Thus was the stage set for a showdown.

Until news leaked out that Dayrit has finally retreated.

Well, I'll give credit to Dayrit for finally realizing the futility of putting up a fight. Ranged against a seasoned politician like Cojuangco, Dayrit would have had no chance at all to retain his post next month.

Besides, Dayrit is coming in from two lackluster performances in the Olympiad—no medal for the country in the 2000 Sydney Olympics under his watch, no medal again in the 2004 Athens Olympics, again under his watch.

In contrast, Cojuangco scored a gold medal as equestrian president in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, with no less than his daughter, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, doing the trick. Before he went to equestrian, Cojuangco had distinguished himself as president of both the Philippine Junior Bowling Association that produced world-class bowlers and the National Golf Association of the Philippines (he left NGAP behind with P6 million in the NSA's kitty).

It is said that Dayrit's withdrawal carried with it a trade-off: A Malacañang appointment as sports adviser. It is no secret that GMA has given her blessings to Cojuangco long before Dayrit had stubbornly pledged to fight "to the death" Peping's candidacy.

If you ask me, OK *lang*. Go on, give Cito Dayrit the position.

After all, Cito didn't go FPJ last May.

***

FASTBREAK. With my vacation about to start, I'm not too sure if I could totally distance myself from pen and paper. Poetry, the pickpocket of literature, could always come unannounced. Even the pizza napkin has been poetry's constant accomplice.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Rising stars, brisk matches usher in PBL Open tourney

By Jasmine W. Payo

BRISK, fleet-footed action will be the menu, but focus will be on both veteran and young standouts when the Philippine Basketball League unfolds its 2004 Open Championship conference today at the Pasig Sports Center.

Arwind Santos, the reigning Most Valuable Player in the PBL and the UAAP, looks forward to a big start with defending PBL Unity Cup champion Magnolia Ice Cream as they battle the Montaña Jewels at 4 p.m.

Magnolia, formerly known as Viva-FEU, returns with an intact lineup that includes Unity Cup Finals MVP Warren Ybañez, Dennis Miranda, Mark Isip and Gerard Jones.

The opening ceremony at 1 p.m. will be followed by the curtain-raiser between last conference's runner-up Welcoat Paints and Toyota Otis-Letran at 2 p.m.

"The challenge for the team now is to ensure that we consistently deliver games," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal, who also steered the FEU Tamaraws to a runner-up finish in the recently concluded UAAP games.

GAMES TODAY (*Pasig Sports Center*)
1 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis-Letran vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Montaña vs Magnolia

The 6-foot-4 Santos, the league's top scorer with 18.9 points and 9.8 rebounds per game, will be pitted against Montaña's ace big man Jon Dan Salvador, who posted a double-double average last conference with 14 ppg and 10.1 rpg.

Also beefing up Montaña's roster are top guards from recently disbanded teams. The Jewels' new recruits include Alex Compton (12.7 ppg in Sunkist-UST), Eric dela Cuesta (15.1 ppg with Blu Detergent) and Reed Juntilla (11.1 ppg in Hapee Toothpaste).

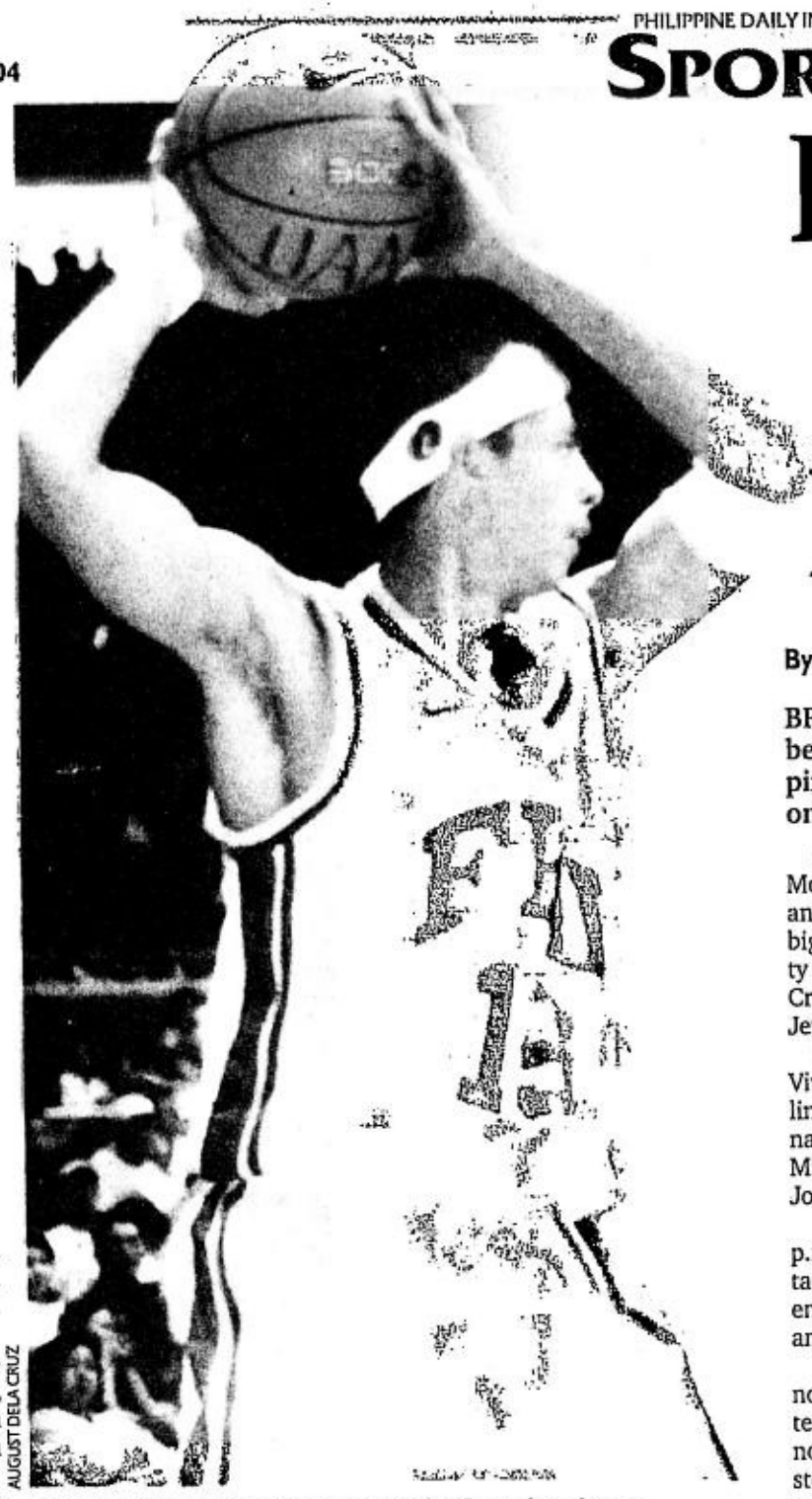
Welcoat also tries to improve its fortune this conference with a highly touted rookie. The 6-foot-7 Fil-Am Anthony Washington will be joining veterans Chester Tolomia, Marvin Ortiguerra, Jay-R Reyes and former NCAA MVP Leo Najorda.

The Paint Masters settled for runner-up finishes in the last two conferences after bagging five titles in eight finals appearances.

"Although our team now is more experienced than the last two conferences, it's hard to predict our chances this time," said coach Caloy Garcia, whose squad will try to score its first victory against fast-rising Toyota Otis-Letran.

Letran Knights standouts Ronjay Enrile and Boyet Bautista led Toyota to a surprising third-place finish in its PBL debut last conference.

UAAP champion ICTSI-La Salle, Addict Mobile-Ateneo, and newcomers Granny Goose Tortillas and Air Philippines complete the eight-team field. The four teams will see action on Tuesday.



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

UAAP MVP Arwind Santos is Magnolia Ice Cream's main man.

Jayvie, Aya, Lora head Manila Ladies field

WORLD Amateur campaigners Jayvie Agojo, Anya Tanpinco and Lora Roberto head the stellar field when the Manila Ladies Cup tees off on Nov. 16 at Wack Wack's west course.

The organizing Manila Lady Golfers Foundation Inc. said Agojo and company have confirmed their participation in the event, a five-in-one fund-raising tournament spread over three days.

Proceeds of the tournament will go to Kythe, a foundation for cancer-stricken children and the Mandaluyong Correctional Women.

Last year's champion and former RP Ladies Open winner Heidi Chua will not be around to defend her title in the event backed by Godiva, Discovery Suites, Facial Care Center, Hanford Phils. Inc., Dickies Jeans, PBCom, Roche Phils. Mfg. Co., Schering-Plough Corp., Pacific Paint and Mfg. Inc., Pagoda Phils. Inc., Dynamic Sports Corp., Alcan-Starpack Packaging, WS Sports Inc., Schwani Marketing Inc., Isuzu Philippine Corp., Technomed Int'l. Co. and Welch.

The field, however, remains talent-laden with the likes of Tracy Locsin, Carmelette Villaroman and Aileen Yao joining the hunt for top honors in the Championship Division.

The last two days are slated on Nov. 18 and 19.

For inquiries, call MLGFI at (632) 6874346, or Wack Wack (632) 7230665, (632) 7236558.

Under tournament rules, ladies seeing action for one day only should play on Nov. 16 as part of the ladies' and men's team competitions. Entry fee is pegged at P2,500 per player. Those playing for two days will be classified into Classes A, B and C. Entry fee is P3,500.

Ladies playing for three days will be classified into the Championship, A, B and C classes. Entry fee is P4,500. The senior division players are required to play for two days where entry fee is pegged at P3,500.

Montaña Jewels really set to shine

CALL him the missing link or the jewel in the crown.

The arrival of the clutch-shooting Alex Compton has clearly boosted the Montaña Jewels' confidence of finally achieving its best finish in the PBL Open Championship after seven seasons of near misses.

Team manager and assistant coach Clarence Aytona believes Montaña has finally found in Compton the steadying presence the Jewels have lacked in past campaigns when they were known to fade in the stretch after a fine start.

With his leadership and marksmanship (17 ppg), Compton steered the rookie-laden Sunkist-UST squad to a respectable fourth-place finish in the 2003 Platinum Cup.

Aside from having Compton in its fold, Aytona is confident that coach Robert Sison can mold the team into one big fighting unit.

"We hope we can achieve our modest goal of at least making it to the semis," said Aytona.

Aside from Compton, Montaña has also acquired the services of Cebuano hotshot Reed Juntilla, Erick dela Cuesta, Ariel Capus, Francis Mercado and promising rookie Karl Kenneth Bono of Adamson.

Montaña also has at its disposal several veterans in Jondan Salvador, Al Magpayo, Paul Guerrero, Ismael Junio, Al Vergara, Froilan Baguion, Christopher Baluyot and defense specialist Bryan Tolentino.

The Jewels boast formidable frontcourt combinations with Salvador (6-4), Magpayo (6-5), Espiritu (6-6), Bono (6-6) and Mercado (6-4) around. Aside from their ability to penetrate the shaded lane, these big men can shoot from the perimeter.

Montaña is indeed set to shine brightest.

Aytona, however, is aware teams are stronger and more balanced this year.

COMPTON: Steadying presence.

Visaya homer powers CL nine

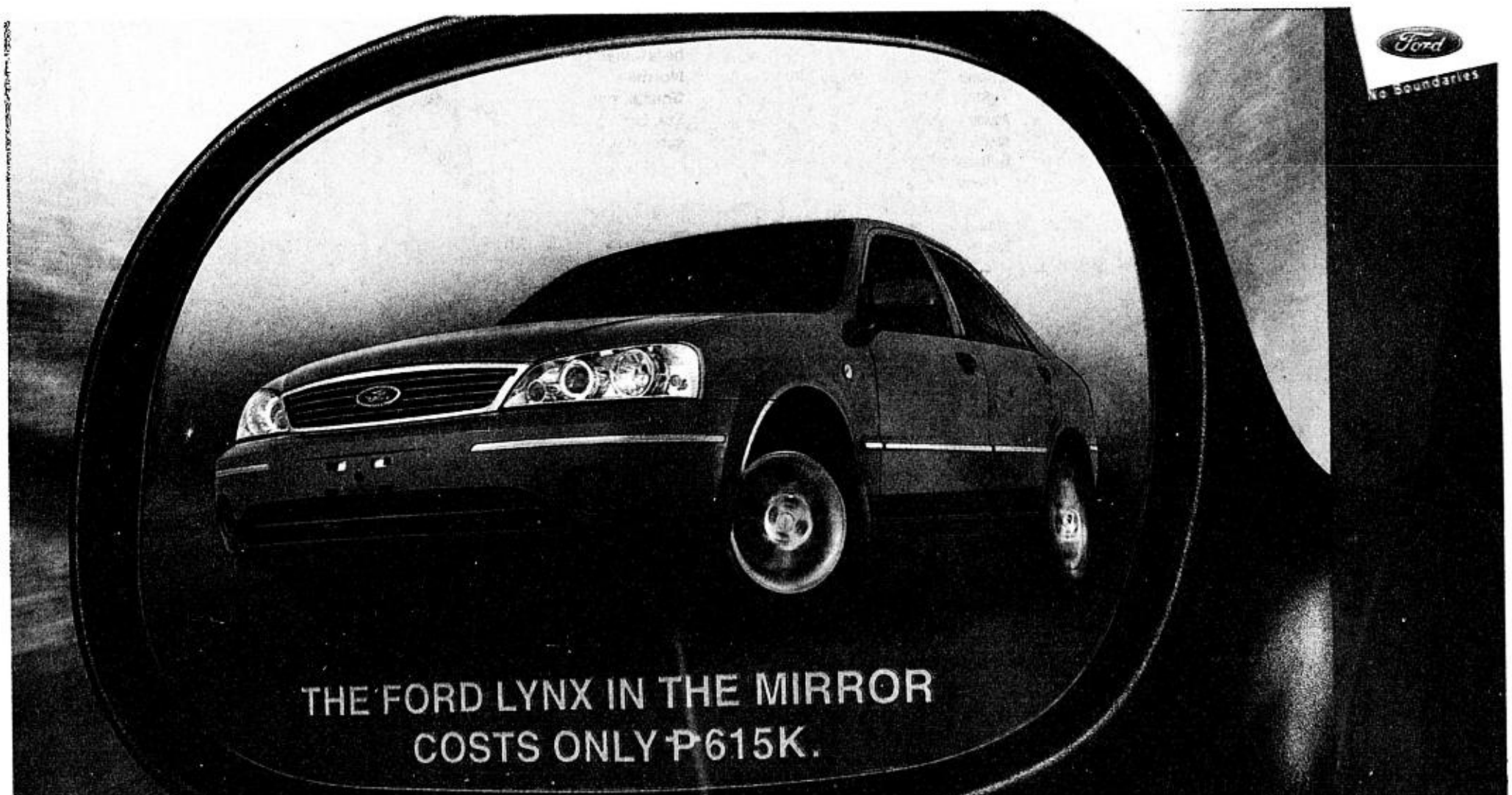
JULIUS Visaya slammed a three-run homerun in the extra inning as Cebuana Lhuillier downed Team Bulldogs, 13-9, recently to top the first round of the Manila Slo-Pitch Softball League (MSSL) at the US Embassy Seafront field in Pasay City.

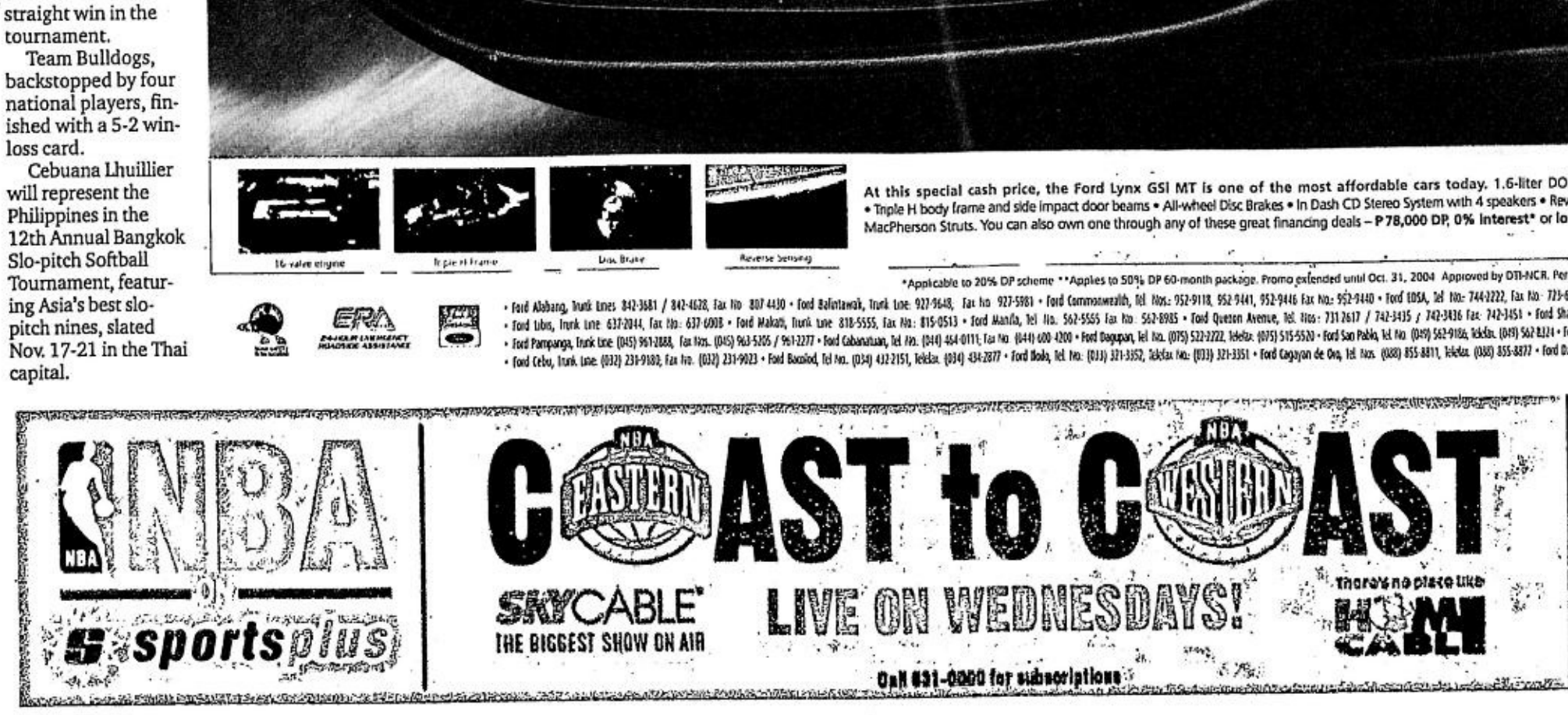
Visaya belted the homer after the two teams had battled to a 9-9 deadlock in the regulation nine innings.

Team owner and player Jean Henri Lhuillier also homered as the team posted its seventh straight win in the tournament.

Team Bulldogs, backstopped by four national players, finished with a 5-2 win-loss card.

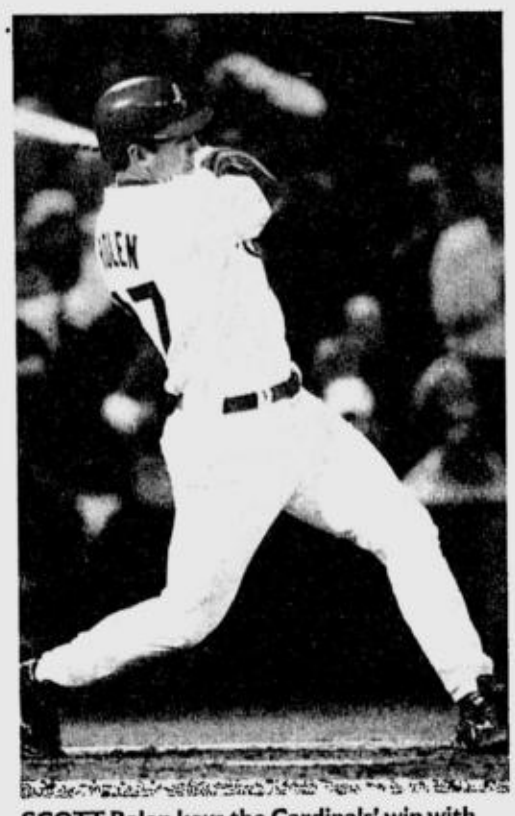
Cebuana Lhuillier will represent the Philippines in the 12th Annual Bangkok Slo-pitch Softball Tournament, featuring Asia's best slo-pitch nines, slated Nov. 17-21 in the Thai capital.





Cardinals gain World Ser

Startle Astros, forge showdown with Red Sox



SCOTT Rolen keys the Cardinals' win with his two-run homer off Roger Clemens. REUTERS

ST. LOUIS—Albert Pujols hit a tying double, Scott Rolen followed with a home run and the St. Louis Cardinals suddenly erupted against Roger Clemens, startling the Houston Astros, 5-2, Thursday night to take Game 7 of the NL championship series.

In a match-up where the home team won each time, the Cardinals broke through with two outs in the sixth inning. It came in a span of only two pitches, and Busch Stadium became a roiling sea of red.

Jeff Suppan overcame a leadoff home run by Craig Biggio to win an apparent mismatch against Clemens. The bullpen combined for three scoreless innings, shutting down Carlos Beltran and Co., with Jason Isringhausen working the ninth for his third save.

After posting 105 wins and running away with the NL Central, the Cardinals advanced to their first World Series under manager Tony La Russa, and first overall since 1987.

Next up, the Boston Red Sox in Game 1 on Saturday night at Fenway Park. By all accounts it should be a classic—they also met in the 1967 and 1946 Series, and St. Louis won both, going the full seven games.

Pujols led the way, hitting .500 with four homers and nine RBIs. Overall, the teams combined for 25 home runs, the most in any postseason series.

Larry Walker singled home an insurance run in the eighth, and the club sporting the famed birds-on-the-bat logo captured its 16th pennant.

For the Astros, it was total disappointment.

They have never reached the World Series since their expansion season of 1962, the same year Clemens was born. But the Rocket could not hold an early 2-0 lead in his record fourth start in a Game 7. *AP*

THE ST. LOUIS Cardinals celebrate on the pitching m Houston Astros in game seven of the National Leagu the Boston Red Sox for the Major League crown.

Boston hopes to exorcise Babe's 'curse' after crushing 'Evil Empire'

BOSTON—"Miracle Workers," the Boston Globe proclaimed on Thursday after the Red Sox—baseball's perennial also-rans—finally brought down the "Evil Empire," taking a giant step toward their first World Series title in 86 years by ousting the New York Yankees.

A supposedly cursed team whose players call themselves "idiots with bad hair," the scruffy Red Sox won their first American League title since 1986 by rallying from a 3-0 deficit in the best-of-seven series —the greatest comeback in postseason baseball history.

Of greater importance for long-suffering Boston fans, the Red Sox did it on the home turf of their well-manicured archrivals to the south: the Yankees, the team Red Sox owners call the "Evil Empire" and which had stymied Red Sox dreams for eight decades.

The Red Sox last won a World Series championship in 1918. The Yankees have won 26 since then.

Red Sox fans have long complained of the "Curse of the Bambino," a hex said to hang over the team's Fenway Park since 1920 when owner Harry Frazee sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees.

Across New England, fans celebrated the Red Sox victory into the wee hours, sometimes violently. In Boston, police arrested eight people and at least a dozen were injured. Similar violence broke out in New England college towns.

Fans' elation was so strong because the Yankees-Red Sox enmity was unique.

"Everyone called it a rivalry, but it was actually a feud, because the Red Sox never won. All the emotion of a rivalry was there, but the same thing happened every time," ESPN.com columnist Bill Simmons told Reuters.

Dan Shaughnessy, a Boston baseball columnist and the author of a book about the curse, urged fans to calm down.

"Sweet as it was to beat the Yankees, the Sox still have to win a World Series before they throw off the dreaded pox," Shaughnessy wrote in Thursday's Globe, noting Boston had played in four World Series since 1918 and lost each one.

While the Red Sox postseason success is becoming a US cultural phenomenon, it could take on political dimensions before the Nov. 2 presidential election.

A Red Sox fan, Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry watched most of Wednesday's decisive game from a hotel room in Ohio, an important battleground state where he was campaigning.

"They're the greatest comeback team there is," Kerry said, pointing at the television set. *Reuters*

'Rocket' conks out in Game 7

NEW YORK—Roger Clemens is still heading to the Hall of Fame, even though his Houston Astros team will not be going to the World Series following a 5-2 loss to St. Louis Cardinals Thursday.

The Astros paraded veteran starting pitcher Clemens on the mound Thursday for the biggest game in the Texas franchise's 43-year history.

The task, though, proved too daunting for the six-time Cy Young Award winner as the Cardinals rocked the 'Rocket' for three runs in the sixth inning.

The 42-year-old worked six frames, giving up four runs on six hits, finishing perhaps the final game of his illustrious career with a strikeout but without the World Series he wanted to bring to his hometown team after he signed with the Astros in January.

"He (Clemens) was fantastic, he gave us the energy to get us going," said Astros manager Phil Garner. "There's no question his intensity and will to win got us to this point." *Reuters*

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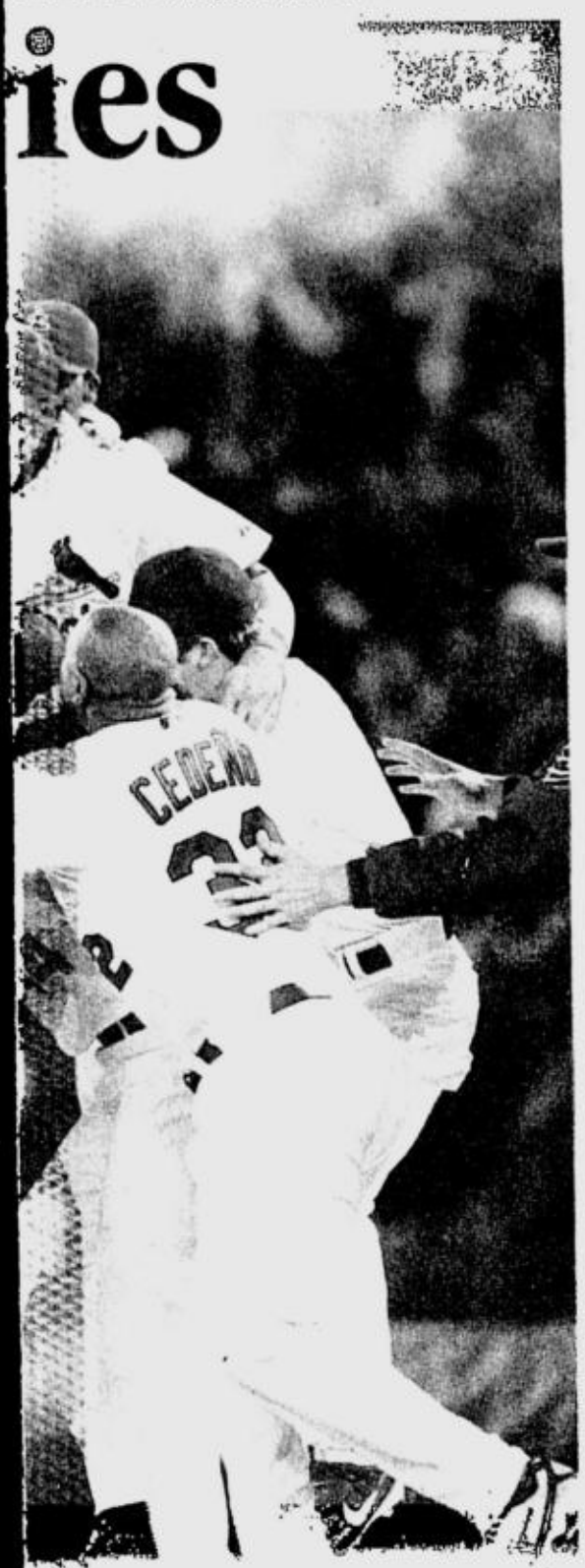


...ound after the final out. The Cardinals defeated the ...e Championship Series to forge a showdown with ...
AFP

Lewis leads Disney golf; Singh four off

ORLANDO, Florida—JL Lewis produced a dazzling 10-under-par 62 to grab a two-shot lead after the opening round of the $4.2 million Funai Classic at the Walt Disney Resort on Thursday.

Australians Mark Hensby and Scott Hend were in joint second on 64 alongside John Huston. A further stroke adrift were Briny Baird, Jose Maria Olazabal and Stephen Ames.

World No. 1 Vijay Singh was among a group of nine players on 66.

The tournament is being played on two par-72 courses, the Magnolia and Palm.

Lewis, 44, twice a winner on the PGA Tour, made his intentions clear from the start. Beginning his round on the 10th hole at the Magnolia, he reeled off four successive birdies.

He dropped a shot at the 15th but hit back with another birdie at the 16th.

Lewis then crammed in six birdies in a spectacular eight-hole stretch coming home to be back in 30, six under.

"I shot 63 in the first round (of the Las Vegas Invitational) two weeks ago, 63 in the last round of the Texas Open (four weeks ago) and 63 at home one day, so I've been playing very well," Lewis told reporters.

"Nobody can explain golf, so I'm not going to try. I just try to hit each shot the best I can and get myself in a situation where hopefully I'll have a chance to do something good on Sunday."

Lewis needed only 25 putts on Thursday but believes he could have gone lower.

"Everybody in the tournament is capable of that, though, that's the thing," he said. "I don't think people realize really what they are capable of sometimes."

Huston also made a bright start at the Magnolia. He opened with a birdie at the first hole and a bogey at the second before rattling off six birdies in a row in an outward six-under 30.

The American bogeyed the par-five 10th and then carded three birdies over the final eight holes.

Hensby returned a six-under 30 as well, on the second nine at the Palm.

Hend went out in a five-under 31 on the back nine of the Magnolia but finished with an eagle, two bogeys and three birdies in front. *Reuters*

THE NBA'S best show off their stuff in preseason games. Toronto Raptor Vince Carter (left) soars for a one-hander against Portland while Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant pops a floater against Golden State. AP

Venus faces Sharapova

ZURICH, Switzerland—Former champion Venus Williams was pushed to two tiebreakers over two hours by a 16-year-old qualifier to reach the quarterfinals of the $1.3 million Swisscom Challenge on Thursday.

Seventh-seeded Williams only beat Ana Ivanovic of Serbia-Montenegro, 7-6 (11), 7-6 (6), and will meet Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova on Friday.

Elena Dementieva, the highest seeded player at No. 3, downed Elena Bovina, 7-5, 3-6, 6-0, in an all-Russian second-round match, and will take on No. 9 Ai Sugiyama of Japan.

No. 10 and home favorite Patty Schnyder downed Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga, 6-4, 6-3, and faces Argentine Paola Suarez, who advanced when Emilie Loit of France retired after aggravating a left leg injury while trailing, 6-1, 2-2. *AP*

Agassi eliminates Spadea

MADRID, Spain—Top-seeded Tim Henman was ousted by Croatian nemesis Ivan Ljubicic, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, in the third round of the Madrid Masters on Thursday.

Meanwhile, second-seeded Andre Agassi, No. 3 Marat Safin, No. 4 David Nalbandian of Argentina, No. 7 Joachim Johansson of Sweden, and No. 8 Tommy Robredo of Spain joined Ljubicic in Friday's quarterfinals.

Agassi, playing his first event since the US Open last month, breezed past fellow American Vince Spadea, 6-1, 6-3, in 58 minutes.

In the last eight, Agassi will meet home favorite Robredo, who overcame a sore shoulder to defeat fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

"Tommy and I haven't played in a long time," Agassi said. *AP*

Anthony disowns drugs found inside backpack

LOS ANGELES—Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, who was charged with marijuana possession last week, said Thursday at a pre-season NBA game that the drugs were not his.

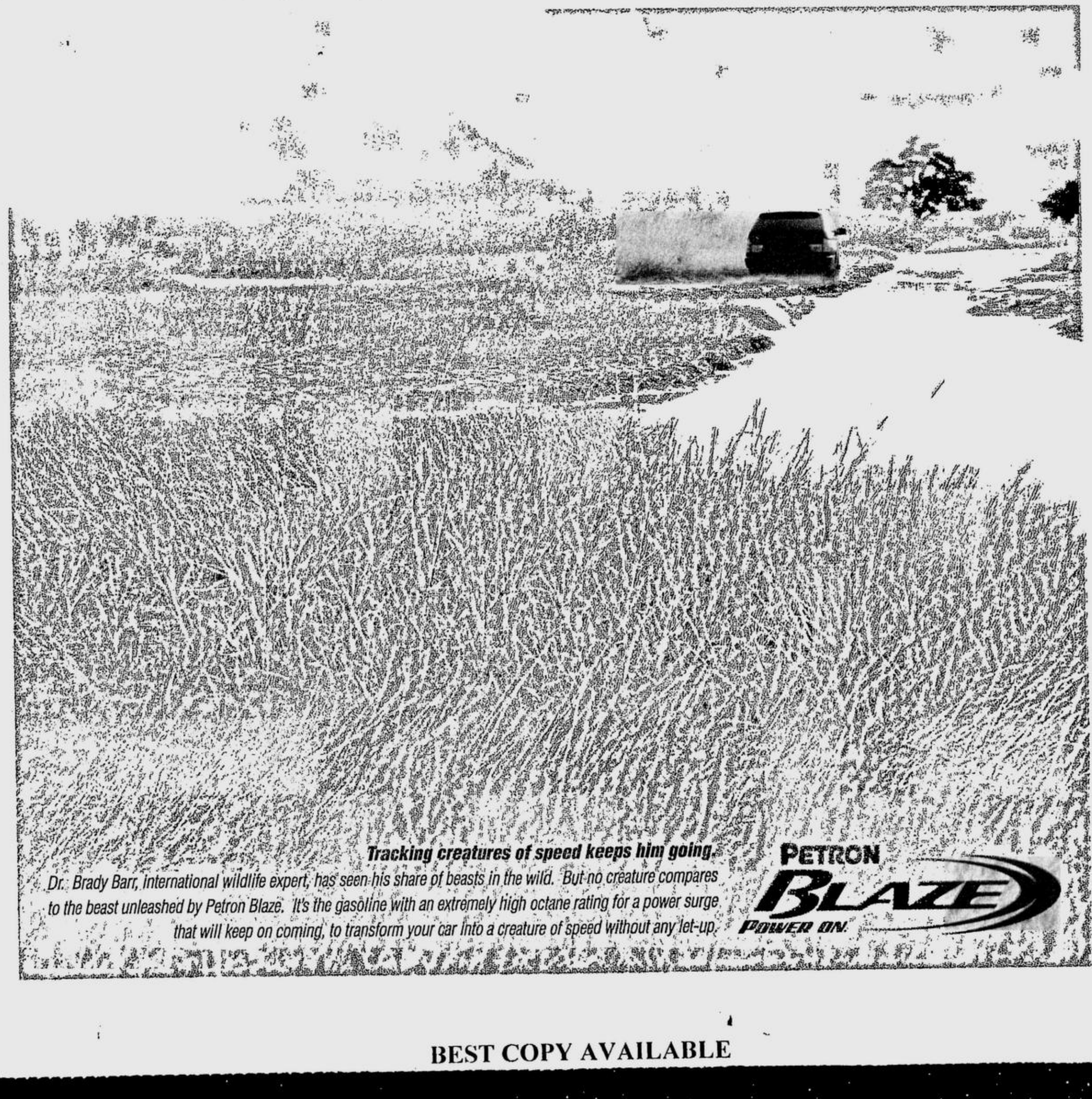
Speaking before the Nuggets' exhibition game against the Los Angeles Lakers, Anthony read a prepared statement claiming his innocence and apologizing to youngsters who see him as a role model.

"I am innocent of this charge because I did not use or intentionally possess marijuana," said Anthony, who had 23 points in Denver's 100-88 preseason win over the Los Angeles Clippers. "I had no idea that there was marijuana in my backpack.

Anthony was stopped at a routine search at Denver International Airport on Friday when security found a small amount of the drug in his carry-on bag.

Anthony's lawyer said his client had loaned the bag to an unidentified friend who was visiting from out of town and that the friend had put the marijuana in the bag.

In preseason games, Golden State edged the Los Angeles Lakers, 90-88; Orlando nipped Charlotte, 92-91; Portland tripped Toronto, 88-85, while Memphis routed Milwaukee, 97-75. *AFP*



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Sepak takraw team passes PSC criteria

THE NATIONAL women's sepak takraw team based in Puerto Princesa City under the fold of Mayor Edward Hagedorn has qualified under the incentive program of the Philippine Sports Commission after its members met the minimum criteria set by the government sports agency.

Beginning next month, athletes Gelyn Evora, Josefina Maat, Irene Apdon, Sherly Adorna, Rhea Padrigo and a reserve from the Manila-based pool, Eden Bernardo, will start receiving their allowances from the PSC as official members of the national team honing up for the 2005 Sea Games.

The PNS-Puerto Princesa team, meanwhile, shoot for the youth division title against Shields-Baguio in the ongoing 2004 National Open Sepak Takraw Championship and 21-and-below tournament also at the Badminton Hall.

PNS-PPC defeated Olongapo B, 21-9, 21-10, while Shields-Baguio whisked Naga A, 25-23, 21-17, to arrange the titular showdown set today at 9 a.m.

Maningding rules Slalom GP

YOUTHFUL car racer Ulysses Maningding of Explorer Motorworks Racing Team drove trouble-free behind the wheel of his reliable Toyota Starlet on the way to capturing the overall and production series best times in the eighth leg of the RACE Motorsports Club Slalom Grand Prix at Festival Mall recently.

The 18-year-old import-export student of St. Benilde blitzed the twisting track and the challenging 360-degree turn with a fast clocking of 53.10 seconds for overall honors at the expense of Dr. Peewee Mendiola (53.16), Noel Rivera (53.26), Danny Santiago (53.60) and Daryl Flores (53.88).

Maningding, who took up slalom racing only this season, actually booked a double whammy of sorts as he also ruled the novice division on a clocking of 54.14 via the Group 2B class.

"*Sinuwerte lang po*. The field was so tough. Imagine my edge to the second-best racer in Dr. Peewee (Mendiola) was only six micro seconds. I just got lucky," said Maningding who also ruled the Novice Modified B class (54.30) and the Novice Prototype (53.36).

It could have been a sterling family affair but Maningding's 9-year-old younger brother in Douglas, father Jun and sister Kathy were not as lucky as they only landed second runners-up in their respective divisions.

His father, Jun, finished third in the executive class at 68.40 seconds as did Douglas in clubman racing at 71.48 and novice stock at 76.76 while Kathy made it 72.66 seconds in Group 2A competition.

ULYSSES Maningding books a double by also ruling the Novice division with, he says, a little luck.

M. Lhuillier edges rival, keeps clean URBL mark

STANDINGS	W	L
M. Lhuillier-Cebu City	6	0
Harbour Centre-Pampanga	4	2
Ilocos Sur Snipers	1	3
Lactovitale-Cebu Province	1	4
Quezon Coco Huskers	1	4

GAME TOMORROW
(Santo Domingo People's Center)
5 p.m.—Ilocos Sur Snipers vs M. Lhuillier-Cebu City

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—It was a tough battle for supremacy that went down the stretch. But in the end, M. Lhuillier-Cebu City Jewelers prevailed, 76-71, over Harbour Centre-Pampanga to remain the solo leader in the ongoing United Regional Basketball League (URBL) at the Archbishop Cinense Gym of the University of the Assumption.

Woodraw Enriquez, who scored 11 of his 17 points in the final period, unveiled crucial plays in the final 46 seconds to wrest command from Harbour Centre and steer the Jewelers to their sixth straight win in as many games.

M. Lhuillier proved that its 96-83 triumph over Harbour-Centre in Cebu City last Sept. 29 was no fluke.

Harbour Centre-Pampanga actually controlled the tempo almost throughout. Egged on by cheers from the supportive hometown crowd, the trio of VJ Santos, Billy Bansil and Alex Bognot came up with coordinated plays that erected a five-point advantage, 71-66, going into the final two minutes.

But Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba called on his wards to step up on defense. True enough, it proved effective as they blanked their rivals in the stretch.

Bruce Dacia, who added 16 points, sank four freethrows while Enriquez scored on an easy layup to wrest the upperhand at 72-71 with 46 seconds to go. Harbour Centre lost the next two possessions as Danilo Aying and Enriquez fetched fouls and drilled in all their charities for the final count.

Santos and Ariel Garcia paced Harbour Centre with 13 markers each.

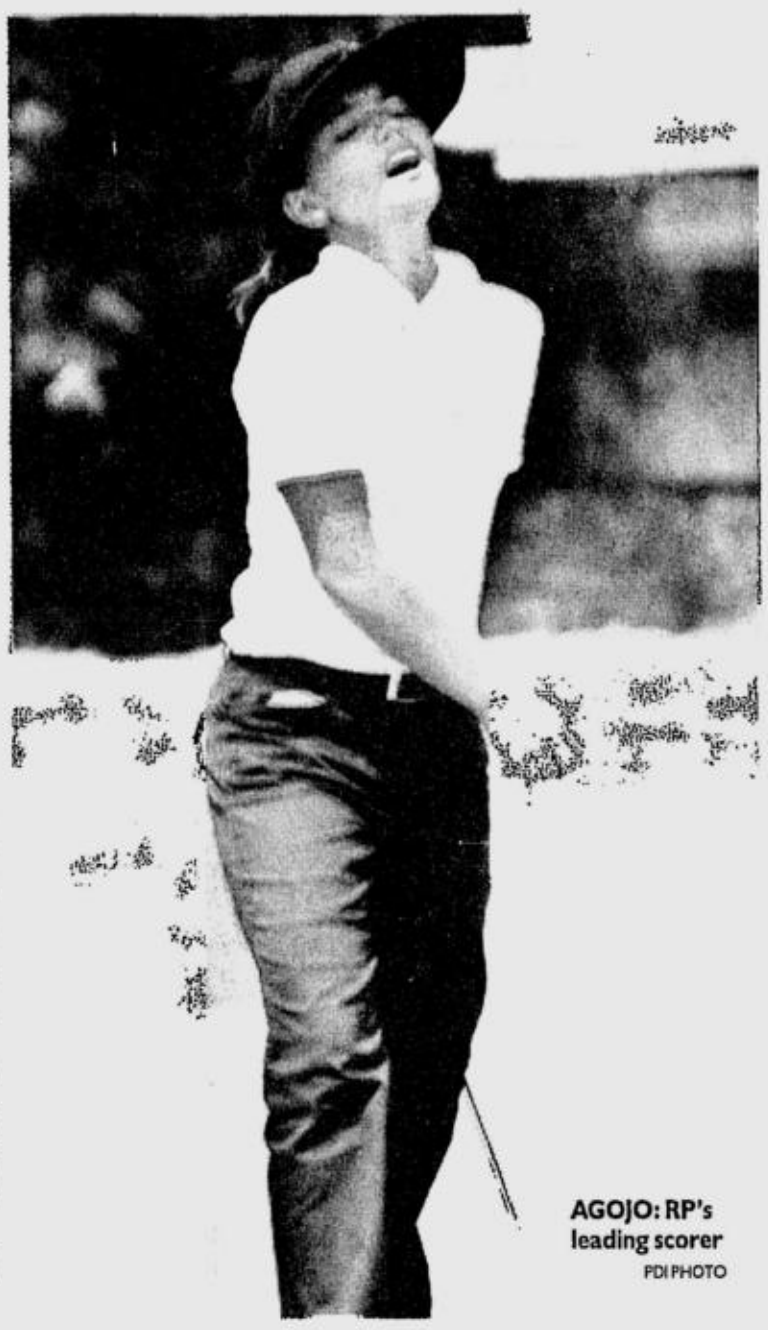
The Ilocos Sur Snipers and Lactovitale-Cebu Province were battling at presstime last night at the Santo Domingo People's Center in Ilocos Sur.

The scores:

M. LHUILLIER 76—Enriquez 17, Dacia 16, Aying 10, Laygo 8, Lumantas 8, Marata 7, L. Garcia 4, Rubi 3, Bat-og 2, De Guzman 1, Cañoneo 0, Ocañada 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 71—A. Garcia 13, Santos 13, Bansil 11, Ruiz 10, Liangco 10, Yambao 6, Bognot 3, Ronquillo 2, J. Mendoza 1, Duyag 1, Magpayo 1, Solis 0.

Quarters: 17-25, 31-36, 57-56, 76-71.



AGOJO: RP's leading scorer
PDI PHOTO

RP lady golfers way off at 30th in world meet

A CHANGE of venues hardly improved the fortunes of the Philippine team as Jayvie Agojo and Anya Tanpinco combined for a 156 and barely climbed to a three-way tie for 30th halfway through the Women's World Amateur Team Championship at the Rio Mar Country Club in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, Thursday.

Agojo actually struggled at the par-72 River course with a 76 after returning a respectable 73 at the Ocean layout overnight. Tanpinco recovered from a disastrous 15-over 87 in the first round with a 78.

Still, the Philippines stood too far behind two-day leader Canada with a 315 heading into the final two rounds of the biennial event.

Lora Roberto, whose 86 counted in the opening round, had an 81 and failed to count this time.

Canada maintained its lead after a 145 for a six-under-par 282 aggregate, the championship's second lowest 36-hole score.

Bannered by Laura Matthews, the Canadians lead Sweden by three shots and the third-placed United States by four.

Matthews, a member of the winning team at the 2003 Copa de las Americas at Rio Mar, led the Canadians with a 70 while Lindsay Knowlton, a senior at Ohio State University, added a 75.

Agojo had five bogeys and a double-bogey 5 with only a birdie to show on a windy day, while Tanpinco had two triple bogeys and four bogeys against a lone birdie. Roberto had a birdie-less round marred by seven bogeys and a double bogey.

The Philippine team's campaign is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Airlines, Mizuno, Master Sports, Boardwalk, Stronghold Insurance Co. Inc., Dynamic Sports (Distributor of Titleist), Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Riviera Golf Club, Alabang Country Club, Villamor Golf Club, Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club, Canlubang Golf and Country Club and TAT Filipinas Golf and Country Club.

For day-to-day news on the championship, visit the NGAP Website at www.ngap.net.

40,000 runners see action to help feed indigent kids

ALI ATIENZA PDI PHOTO

INDIGENT and underfed children will be the beneficiaries of the country's biggest one-time gathering of runners—the 2nd Manila Marathon—set to kick off on Nov. 28 on an out-and-back course starting from the Rizal Park.

An estimated 40,000 runners from all cross-sections of society will converge to participate in the event, which will kick off preparations by the Big City a year before the SEA Games returns to the country after 14 years.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chief of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco), said registration fees for the event have been waived in exchange for donations of canned goods from every participant for the Masco's charity project.

"The Manila Marathon will not only serve as a vehicle to create awareness in rallying support for Filipino athletes competing in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games but also as a noble endeavor aimed at tapping social consciousness to help our less fortunate children," said the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

To benefit from the event's food drive are malnourished children from Antique in Western Visayas and Kalinga in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Atienza bared that the choice of Antique and Kalinga was based on statistics provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), made by the World Health Organization (WHO)-Philippines.

According to the WHO data, which determined provinces in the country that are mostly at risk to malnutrition with five in every 10 children being afflicted by the condition, Kalinga has a weight-for-age percentage distribution of 46.9 percent underweight children, while Antique has 46.8 percent.

Runners from Manila's 897 barangays, the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, City College of Manila, EARIST, the city's 130 public elementary and secondary schools, as well as the clergy, movie and entertainment industry, and the military and police have thrown their full support behind the staging of the run backed by Nike and Smart Communications.

Half a million pesos in cash prizes are up for grabs with top honors to be disputed in seven divisions—the 42-K full marathon, 10-K, 5-K, Media 5-K, Celebrity 5-K, and Differently-abled 3-K races, which will all feature men and women categories. The 15-under Kids 3-K fun run has also been included.

Registration is ongoing and entry forms are available at the Masco offices at the Manila City Hall and San Andres Sports Complex and at all Nike outlets.

Montecarlo dominates Red Ribbon

THE MONTECARLO Football Club lived up to its lofty billing as it topped the recent Red Ribbon Football Fiesta tournament at the Palaez Sports Pitch in Cagayan de Oro.

Powered by striker Ralph Cielo's hat trick, Montecarlo beat St. Joseph Academy, 3-2, in the final.

Cielo, the tournament MVP, hit the back of the net in the 21st, 31st and 45th minute. St. Joseph kept at pace with goals by Rodnel Alinaban in the 27th and 63rd minutes but failed to get the equalizer by game's end.

The organizing Cagayan de Oro Misamis Oriental Football Association (CMOFA) headed by Allan Abellanosa handed out special awards to Montecarlo's Jonathan Regusante for best striker and Jomar Yanez for best defender. St. Joseph keeper Glenn Ferrer was given best goalie recognition and the third-placed team, the Abbas Orchard School, received citations for Jude Boo (best midfield), Denise Cezar (best female player) and a 'best cheering parents' award for the school itself.

The Red Ribbon Football Fiesta is the official 'Under-14' tournament of the Philippine Football Federation.

Metro Manila hosts AXN Challenge anew Nov. 27

METRO Manila will once again play host to die-hard adventure athletes and urban warriors as the Samsung AXN Challenge 2004 returns to the Philippines for yet another round of adventure racing on Nov. 27.

The Samsung AXN Challenge puts a brand-new twist on adventure racing by taking place right in the heart of the bustling metropolis instead of the wilderness, presenting an opportunity for participants and spectators alike for a thrilling racing experience.

This year's race will kick off at the Open Park behind Quirino Grandstand in Manila and will traverse the urban landscape of the Metro, to culminate in a grand finale-cum-music-carnival at the Glorietta 3 Park in Makati City.

Last year's Philippine leg saw 252 adventure racers traverse the city of Manila as they performed a range of physical and mental tests, including the indigenous Palo Sebo challenge. From scaling the steel girders of the Ayala Bridge, to absailing down the façade of the Makati Central Fire Station, the race lived up to its reputation of testing the very limits of competitors.

More than 200 participants from the Philippines and around Asia are expected to join in this race, spread out in over 50 km of the city's landscape. At stake is prize money totaling over P150,000, as well as trophies, medals and other prizes.

Registration is now ongoing and ends on Nov. 12, 6 p.m. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Samsung AXN Challenge 2004 official website, www.axn-asia.com. For inquiries, contact Xtreme Concepts Inc. at (632) 8980583 or e-mail abbyantonio@yahoo.com.

MANILA'S urban warriors battle in the Samsung AXN Challenge.

Southville XI enters semis

SOUTHVILLE International School and Colleges (SISC) defeated St. Scholastica, 1-0, recently to gain a semifinal berth in this season's tourney of the Metro Manila Girls Football Association.

In the 55th minute, Alex 'Speedy' Godinez struck a loose ball from inside the box to give Southville a 1-0 lead that it would keep until the end. Jessica Ryon, Kayce Clareza and Anna Frumenti starred for Southville, always keeping St. Scholastica on the defensive.

In the second encounter, Miriam College rallied to beat De La Salle Zobel-B, 4-1.

DLS Zobel and U-Ha striker Kaira Dimatulac gave the La Sallians the early go-ahead. But the Miriam squad of RP Futsal coach Bob Manlulo managed to equalize before the break and regroup to finish off the La Sallians with three more goals in the second half.

RP gambles vs Poland, rests aces

MALLORCA, Spain—The Philippines takes a big gamble by resting its top two scorers against ninth-ranked Poland Friday in the resumption of the World Chess Olympiad.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio and International Master Jayson Gonzales, still undefeated in five games, will sit out the seventh round to conserve their energy for the second half of the tournament.

As a result, IM Mark Paragua (2534) has been elevated to Board 2 and a possible clash with super GM Michal Krasenkow, the highest rated Pole with an Elo of 2676.

Reserves Emmanuel Senador and Darwin Laylo will man the third and fourth boards, respectively. GM Eugene Torre plays black in the top board.

The decision to field the alternates was reached Thursday, taking into account the need to provide them more exposure. It was also meant to ensure that each player gets equal opportunity to play the white pieces.

"It's a calculated risk since Poland is a tough team," said RP team captain Sammy Estimo. "But we have to prepare the reserves just in case they are needed in the crucial rounds."

Estimo took into account the Philippines' poor finish in the past Olympiads due to its failure to pace its top players.

"The beauty of the Swiss System is that it gives every team the opportunity to get back into the fight. *Sa* last three rounds *naman nagkakatalo*," explained Estimo.

The Filipinos have so far dropped matches against India and Ireland, but each time they bounced back with big wins.

On Wednesday, Torre, Antonio, Paragua and Gonzales dealt Denmark a 3-1 defeat to gain a share of 13th place with 15 points, four points off pacesetting Ukraine.

The Filipinos are tied with China, England, the Netherlands, Argentina, Serbia Montenegro and Greece, half-a-point ahead of powerhouse teams US and Hungary.

Gonzales, on track for a GM result, is the team's top producer with 4.5 points in five games followed by Antonio with 3.5 also in five outings. Paragua is 3-of- 5, Torre 2-of-4, Laylo 2-of-3 and Senador 0-of-2.

The other Polish players are GM Bartlomiej Macieja (2613) at Board 1, GM Robert Kempinski (2608) at Board 3 and GM Kamil Miton (2600) at Board 4. The reserves are GM Bartosz Socko (2570) and GM Lukasz Cyborowski (2564).

The Filipinos spent the rest day, Thursday, relaxing and indulging in other sports.

Torre, Gonzales and Antonio played tennis while Paragua and Laylo faced off in table tennis.

There was a little chess, too, with Antonio topping an international blitz tournament held in the morning ahead of Paragua in fourth place. Senador went sight-seeing with Antonio after the blitz event.

The women's team, which faces Serbia Montenegro in the seventh round, spent the whole afternoon in the beach.

The troika of Women Fide Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao, Women IM Beverly Mendoza and rookie Loreshyl Cuison, ranked 65th, share 34th spot with 9.5 points, just 5.5 points shy of matching their total in 2002.

Hernandez pulls ahead of Bernis

BAGUIO—If he can have his way, Dave Hernandez will not just let heavily favored Jun Bernis get his piece of cake in the sixth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour starting at the up-and-down Camp John Hay course here.

In a showdown of players belonging to different generations, Hernandez carded a one-under-par 68 behind a 33 in the back nine on Thursday and seized a two-stroke lead over Bernis after the penultimate round.

Hernandez's 212 total after two straight rounds of 72-72 sent him past Bernis, the national amateur champ left behind by the country's World Amateurs team to Puerto Rico due to a visa snafu. Bernis, up by four on Hernandez after two rounds, was at 214 following a 74.

The Samsung Tour is also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Hernandez and Bernis were the only ones left to dispute the championship crown as their rivals all struggled in the late afternoon tee-off.

Ronnie Torrecampo, only three down when he started, soared to a 77 and found himself trailing by eight in third place at 220 while Rufino Bayron, in second place after two rounds, played even worse with his 82 getting him to a far fourth at 224 in a tie with Chester Calpotura (76).

Peter Go nipped Ed Camacho nipped in a sudden-death playoff for the Class D crown after both finished with similar 171 totals. Raul Molintas (84-75-159) nipped Herr Bautista (83-77-160) by a stroke for the Class C title.

For inquiries, please call the PSMG office at 635-00-10.

PACESETTER: Tom Kite reacts after an eagle on the 16th green of the Sonoma Golf Club in the first round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Kite fired an 8-under-par 64 to lead by a shot. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Escala rules Shell scooter

CARMONA, Cavite—John Rey Escala displayed superb riding skills to rule the stock underbone 110cc category in the 2004 Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit here recently. Escala defeated Maico and Barny Buncio, John Lery Enriquez and John Carlo Caasi to take top honors in the event organized by E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance. Escala, however, finished only second to Maico Buncio in the 112-110 underbone class. Multititled Jolet Jao swept the underbone 125cc and 50cc open categories over Benjamin Dolores and Mark Barcial, respectively. Jao won over Dolores, Geoffrey Aguisanda, Dustin Esguerra and Edwin Mauricio in the underbone 125cc and Barcial, Gerry Quinones, Robert Altea and Ivan Santiago in the 50cc open. The other winners were Barny Buncio (motard), Ivan Santiago (100-70cc), Arnold Tejada (Yamaha 50cc), and Roger Monley (Honda 50cc). Race director Elson Carpio awarded the trophies and cash prizes to the winners, assisted by E.L. Racing Tech finance officer Budo Baclagan. The series will resume on Nov. 7 at the Boomland along Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Bernabe Sr. Memorial golfest

THE FLORENCIO V. Bernabe Sr. Foundation Inc. will stage a golf tournament on Nov. 22 with the noble goal of attaining a "better and prosperous Parañaque City." "We are calling the event Florencio V. Bernabe Sr. Memorial Golf Invitational and its focus is mainly for a better and prosperous Parañaque," said Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. yesterday. The tournament is set at the Riviera Golf and Country Club's Couples course. The awarding ceremony is at 7 p.m., Nov. 24, at the Casino Filipino Parañaque. Tournament proceeds will go to the "Save the Parañaque River project." Dr. Renato M. Bernabe is the tournament's executive committee chair. Prizes will be given to the top 10 teams and top three individuals in each division. For details, call Ella at 829-2913 and Francisco "Toto" Bautista at 0917-3277427.

EARLY BIRDS: Early registrants for the 23rd PCA Open tennis championships pose after signing up. They are [from left] No. 1 ranked in the 14-under Trudy Amoranto, No. 2 Alyssa Labay, No. 1 ranked in 16-under Jesica Agra and No. 3 Ivy Castro. The event is presented by Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar.

DLS-Zobel teams sweep games

DE La Salle Zobel teams dominated the second leg of the recent RIFA Girls Tournament held at the Collegio de San Agustin in Dasmariñas Village, Makati. The DLS-Z Under 11 Girls Team won all games in their division against Woodrose (1-0), Poveda (3-0) and Hed Center (3-0). The DLS-Z Under 13 Girls Team beat Hed Center (4-0), Collegio San Agustin (2-0) and Poveda (2-0) while the DLSZ Girls Under 17 Soccer Team A pounded Southville International School (11-0) during the MMGFA (Metro Manila Girls Football Association) under 17 elimination round. DLS-Z Girls Under 17 Team B, composed of under 13 and under 15 girls, also bested St. Scholastica's Manila (1-0). DLS-Z Girls Under 17 Team A and Team B, Southville and Miriam will face off in the MMGFA quarterfinals to be held also in November.

Mancenares, Faustino GCAP champions

PARTNERS Ramon Mancenares and Tony Faustino of Davao won the Stagfighter of the Year title Monday night, posting the highest points in seven stag derbies presented by the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) at the Las Piñas Coliseum. The duo's entry, EDL Farms, tallied a total of 24.5 points, edging Sagupaan Complexor 3000 of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio by half a point. Mancenares and Faustino will receive the Stagfighter award tonight at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City. The Stagfighter's handler and gaffer will get P70,000 and P30,000, respectively. The entry of Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo, champion in the final leg, landed at third spot with 22 points, followed by Benjie Lim's Love U Papa (21), Sonny Lagon's Blue Blade (19.5), Rep. Rudy Albano's Mulawin (19) and Eric dela Rosa's Labanan sa Pasay (19). The GCAP Stagfighter of the Year race was sponsored by Sagupaan Superfeeds and Pagcor-Casino Filipino. Meanwhile, Ariel Garovillo and Tiago Cerilla will host the LGBA Screening Committee 4-Stag Derby on Oct. 30, also at Las Piñas Coliseum. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

UBBA 3-stag derby at San Mateo

THE 120-MEMBER United Backyard Breeders Association has tapped Thunderbird Power Feeds as chief sponsor of the group's second Annual 3-Stag Derby slated Oct. 29 at the San Mateo Cockpit in Rizal province. Led by field supervisor for Rizal Jun Regala, the Thunderbird Winning Team will be holding games and other promotional activities during the derby. UBBA was founded two years ago by small-scale gamefowl breeders based here and abroad. They maintain their own private and public fora at sabungero.com. Entry fee is P3,300 while the minimum bet is P3,300. Screening and submission of weights is set on derby day from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. For inquiries, call the San Mateo Cockpit at 942-5488. Meanwhile, the GBAP 6-Stag Derby of the Gamefowl Breeders Association of Pangasinan will be held on Oct. 23 at the Lingayen Sports Complex with Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster as sponsor.

SEAG crown: Buhain crusade

By Arsenic Lacson

A THOUSAND days in office and Eric Buhain warms his chair even more toward a crusade focused on duplicating a feat he spearheaded 13 years ago.

"It's like stepping into my first day in office with a mission: go for No. 1 in 2005," said Buhain, the 34-year-old chair of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), who completed his 1,000th day at the helm of the government sports agency Tuesday.

Go for No. 1 in 2005 means nothing less than the overall championship in the Southeast Asian Games, the 23rd edition of which the country is hosting next year.

In 1991, the second time after 1981 when the Philippines hosted the biennial games, the 21-year-old Buhain, lean and mean, scooped six gold medals in the pool to spearhead an unprecedented second-place finish by the Philippines. Only one gold medal separated then overall champion Indonesia from a spirited RP crew.

"The SEA Games will come to our soil a third time and it would be a long time after that when it gets back here and we have to make the most out of it," said Buhain, on whose broad shoulders rests the load of honing Filipino athletes to the goal.

The PSC, Buhain said, has a responsibility to guarantee not only a successful hosting but also a successful campaign that would see Filipino athletes at the top of the awards podium in 2005.

BUHAIN: 1,000 days in office

"It's a tough task to do and 1991 may be a tough act to follow, but I vow to focus the same way I did as an athlete," he said.

Since Buhain's appointment in 2002, 80 percent of the PSC's National Sports Development Fund estimated at over P300 million a year was spent for various NSAs for the training, foreign exposure, equipment, hosting, athletes' and coaches' monthly allowances, food subsidy, billeting, medical requirements, repair of training venues, uniforms and other basic necessities.

Under the auspices of President Macapagal Arroyo, the PSC successfully launched and continued its major programs, particularly for grassroots development. And despite the difficulties and controversies initially encountered, Buhain remained steadfast to stage the Palarong Pambansa, Philippine National Youth Games—Batang Pinoy and Mindanao Friendship Games

In the area of high-level sports promotion, the big chunk of the agency's effort was directed toward the preparation and participation of Filipino athletes in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and 2004 Athens Olympiad.

Notable among the strategies implemented by the agency under Buhain was to be outward-looking in supplementing its meager budget by actively sourcing the assistance of the corporate sector.

A landmark achievement by the PSC is the "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo" project supported by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's Foundation, which tapped the private sector to help gear up national athletes for the Vietnam SEA Games and for next year's Manila edition.

In line with the government's austerity measures, Buhain ordered the reevaluation and redefinition of the selection standards for members of the national team for the benefit of deserving athletes and to ensure a lean and mean pool of elite athletes.

The PSC aims to improve on its gains by revalidating the focus and direction of local sports development toward the drafting and validation of a Master Plan for Philippine Sports.

[Arsenic Lacson is the head of the media bureau of the Philippine Sports Commission.]

Sherwood hosts Chairman's Cup today

SHERWOOD Hills Golf and Country Club once again takes centerstage as the third edition of the much-awaited Chairman's Cup, in honor of club chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña, starts today in Trece Martires, Cavite. Shotgun tee-off time begins at 8:30 a.m. Sports and games committee chair Freddie Mendoza said the challenging 7,265-yard, all weather championship course will put to test the golfing skills of the 144 members and guests who are competing for the division titles and fabulous raffle prizes after the round. "This will be another intense but fun-filled and friendly tournament, just like as our previous successful staging of the Chairman's Cup," Mendoza said of the event which has Globe Platinum, Golforce Inc., Information Professionals Inc., and MRT Dev't. Co. as sponsors.

Asia Pacific Golf Corp., Club Leisure Coppertone, Custom Clubmakers, Federal Management, Hyatt Regency Manila, Isuzu Phils. Corp., Industrial Waste Systems, Kia Motors, Kork Inc., Pfizer and Twinings Tea are the other sponsors.

Mendoza added that teamwork will play a key role today because the tournament format is the two-man team (member and guest) aggregate. "Teammates wil have to help each other because the competition, as usual, will be spirited and intense."

PRADA CHAMP: La Salle won the Prada basketball championship midget division over Don Bosco Mandaluyong recently. La Salle was powered by tournament MVP Martin John Reyes and coached by Ricky Magallanes. Other players are Mac Reyes, Micco Sollano, Mark Alivia, Kevin Tesurero, Chino Cruz, Rey Repollo Jr., Miggy Moreno, Joaquin Dario, Geo Ong, Timmy San Diego, MC Manaois, Riel Faustino, Pau Vinas and King Seno.

President's Cup slated Oct. 27

THE UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association Inc. will hold its annual President's Cup golf tournament at the Villamor Golf Club on Oct. 27 in honor of its officers and board members. The event will be held simultaneously with the monthly "Barkada ng Up Fratmen" and will kick off the Beta Sigma International Homecoming slated on Oct. 29-31 in Cebu City.

Tee-off time is 11 a.m. to noon. Dinner, awards and fellowship will follow immediately to celebrate the birthday of Rico Arranz, one of the founders and the chair of the "Barkada ng Up Fratmen."

Beta Sigma members based in the US, Canada and other countries will participate in the event. Call 832-1167 or 09196022583.

GOLF BACKER: Boysen Paints is backing the 13th Architects Golf Classic set Nov. 22 at Sta. Elena Golf Club. Boysen president Willy Ong [third from left] and AGC president Nepthy Del Rosario seal the partnership with a handshake. Flanking them are Boysen sales manager Ruben Cueto and architect Mon Mendoza. Also shown are Boysen area manager James Ung and architects Philip Mendoza, Romy Dela Cruz and Pinoy Cruz.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A2-1

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Liability limits Jasmine Trias' great stellar potential

By Rito P. Asilo

LAST weekend, we caught Jasmine Trias' concert at the Araneta Coliseum to see if the hype and hoopla over the pretty 17-year-old Fil-Am "American Idol" third placer were well deserved.

We understood the hoopla. After all, it isn't everyday that a person of Pinoy descent makes a dent in the US' lucrative and highly competitive entertainment scene. But, we weren't so sure about the hype.

We were among those who cheered Jasmine and Camile Velasco when they showcased the Pinoy spunk and spirit in the popular talent search—Simon Cowell's "cheery" personality and dead-on honesty were just icing on the cake.

When we attended the Mandarin Oriental presscon in her honor two weeks ago upon her arrival from a show in Singapore, Jasmine was appropriately sweet and charming, and looked genuinely surprised about the warm welcome accorded her.

Privacy

But, the fresh-faced teener dodged questions about her love life, which would have been understandable, had she been consistent about her resolve to protect her privacy. (She *did* talk about it later on TV shows.)

When she was asked about the best and worst comments that she got on the show, she answered: "I don't remember. I have moved on"—and we found that strange, for obvious reasons.

Ten days later, in her concert at the Big Dome, Jasmine, this time sporting curled tresses, had warmed considerably to her adoring, shrieking and stomping fans, and to the trappings of celebrity—she looked like she was having a blast!

She was genuinely pleased and thankful for the good turnout—only the gallery section was empty, a an impressive feat considering that, as a colleague from PDI noted, even Gary V's recent concert couldn't fill up the huge venue as much.

TRIAS. A new jingle made her shine.

Charm offensive

We haven't seen a charm offensive as potent as Jasmine's in a long while. The girl knew how to please: She flirted with guests Jay-R, Erik Santos and Christian Bautista in a poorly written, badly-executed "Choose me" spiel before the quartet shared a medley of Regine Velasquez-Ogie Alcasid songs. Her smattering of crooked Tagalog (*"Maraming maraming salamat sa inyo lahat!"*; "Cute *na* cute *naman*") further endeared her to fans.

The crowd was tickled pink when she danced, pranced and jiggled with her backup dancers. She even demonstrated her own "Ocho-Ocho" groove. (Enough, already!)

Then, she sang popular ditties like "Mula sa Puso," "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "I'll Never Love This Way Again," "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka," "Magpakailanman," "Hanggang Ngayon," and her signature song, "Inseparable."

Range

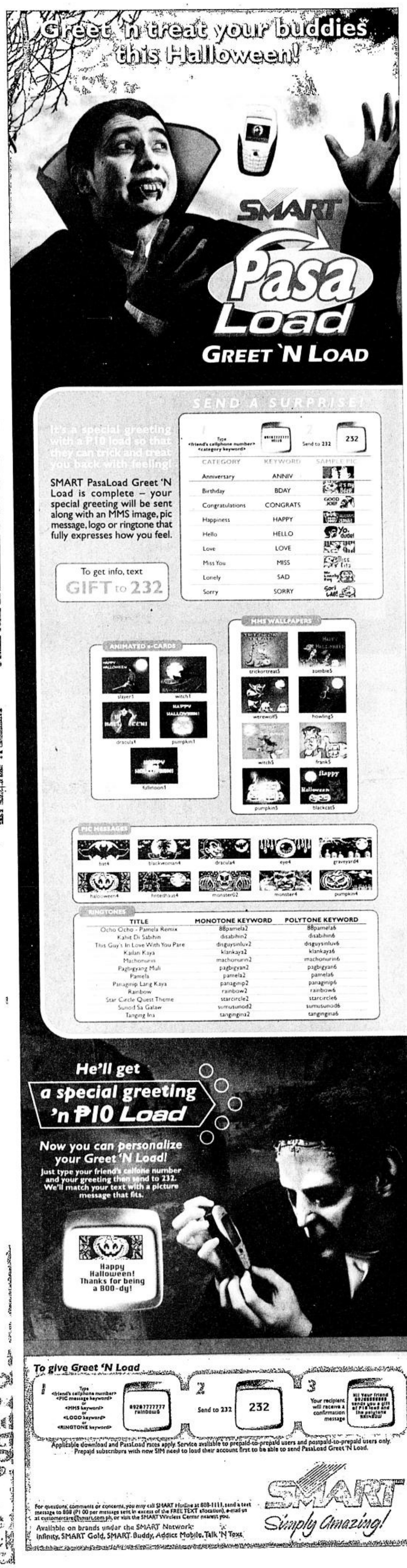
It was a new tune, however, that made her truly shine, a commercial jingle (for McDonald's) at that—"Love Ko 'To."

The song, a cute, radio-friendly ditty with an infectious sway and a light, friendly, tapping jive, showcased her range and vocal timbre, and had us visiting the nearest McDonald's outlet for a copy of the CD single.

Yes, she has talent and great potential. But, these are not enough. Despite a vocal quality that could launch a thousand singles, Jasmine has a disturbing albeit rectifiable liability:

In the concert, she sang portions of "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and Alicia Keys' "If I Ain't Got You," and most of her encore, the tricky "I Will Always Love You," a wee bit off-key—a mortal sin for singers!

While modern technology has, in recent years, found ways to fix this in recording, the disadvantage will greatly limit Jasmine's marketing potential. So, her handlers better do something about it—fast!



Pitoy Moreno and the stars

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN starmaker *nonpareil* Doc Pingot Perez took over the reins at Sampaguita Pictures, he helped discover lovely young talents like Gloria Romero, Barbara Perez, Susan Roces and Amalia Fuentes.

The fact that all four are still held up as movie icons five decades after their movie careers were launched says a lot about Doc's unerring eye for stellar looks, talent and charisma.

ROCES, ROMERO AND FUENTES. Their beauty was enhanced by the couture creations of the fashion icon.

Trouble was, Doc's discoveries were relatively young and unpolished, veritable diamonds in the rough who had to be molded, refined and showcased so they would truly shine.

Discoveries

That's why Doc Perez put his studio's discoveries through rigorous training in acting, social graces, dealing with fans and the movie press, responsible conduct, etc.

This training was important, because in the 1950s, film actors weren't looked up to by "society," despite their obvious good looks. Doc gave his stars the "finishing school" treatment because he wanted them to be accepted, not just by their fans, but also by Manila's 400.

Successful

In this, he eventually proved to be singularly successful. A major reason for his success was his decision to showcase his female stars in the couture creations of fashion icons like Ramon Valera and Pitoy Moreno.

Now that Pitoy is about to be honored with a 50-year career tribute at the CCP Main Theater on Oct. 26 and 27, it's timely for us to recall the important part that his creative relationship with Sampaguita Pictures played in his career, and in the "transformation" of the studio's loveliest luminaries.

Knack

Since they were truly beautiful, they enhanced his creations, so he benefited from the relationship. But the stars got even more out of being gowned by Moreno, because he had a knack for bringing out the best in them.

Pitoy was more than just a designer. A graduate of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, he had an artist's eye for beauty, and knew how to make it even more striking than it already was, especially in the movies.

That was because Pitoy was also a

PITOY/A2-7

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TV talent search preoccupied with surface gloss

By Noelani Torre

"DREAM. Believe. Survive" is the tagline of GMA's "StarStruck." Supposedly the first "reality-based *artista* search," the show—as does its competition, "Star Circle Quest"—emphasizes the idea that ordinary people can also become "stars." Thus, "dream, believe," and who knows, you just might "survive"!

Praises

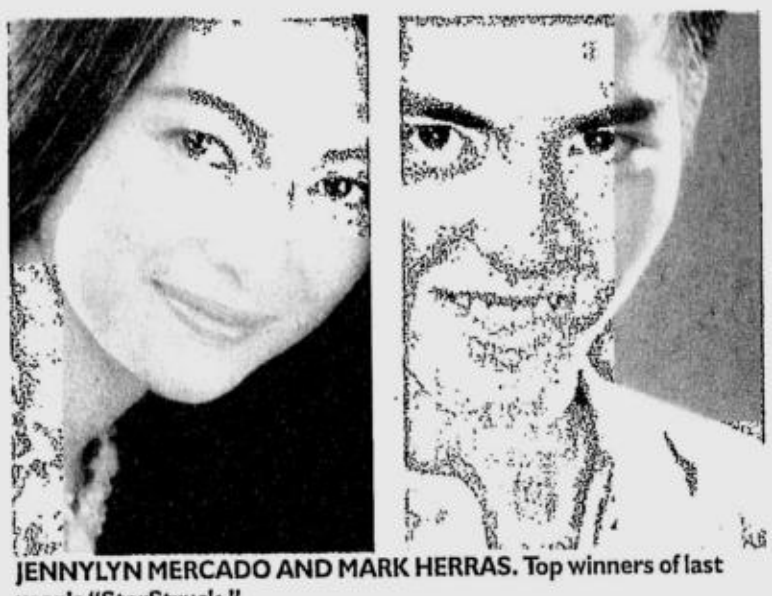
We watched a couple of episodes of "StarStruck" recently, and we particularly remember the one where the show's cameras went to the homes of the 14 finalists. The contestants guided the cameras around, all the while telling viewers about their lives. Family members were interviewed and, not surprisingly, they all sang their relative's praises.

But, this is all pretty invasive, when you come to think about it. After all, these kids entered a talent competition, *not* a dissect-my-life show.

Contest

Apparently, however, this is what "reality-based" means. We don't know whether the contestants were comfortable with the idea, but we presume that they must have known early on what entering a contest like this would entail.

Privacy isn't important in a show like this (it might even be a bad word). The camera strives to go over all of the aspects of a contestant's life in order to flesh out a story which is then sold to an audience hungering for its main message—hope.



JENNYLYN MERCADO AND MARK HERRAS. Top winners of last year's "StarStruck."

The candidates know what roles they have to play. They strive to present themselves in a sympathetic light, hence the proliferation of I'm-doing-this-because-I-want-to-help-my-family stories.

Rare

It's rare that a contestant will admit outright that she entered because she wanted to be famous, or simply because she enjoyed it—which is why we applauded the one who frankly stated that it was because "ever since, *gusto ko talagang sumikat.*"

Tears are more often encouraged, however. Another contestant who said "*pinapaiyak nyo naman ako, e*" hit the nail right on the head. We Pinoys love to watch people suffer, especially when we know that they have a chance of triumphing in the end.

By going into the fairly ordinary homes of the show's 14 hopefuls, "StarStruck" is reiterating its message—"dream, believe, survive."

Dream

Of course, one has to go through a not-so-easy process to achieve this dream, but we're veteran viewers of soap operas, and we expect to suffer a little.

This is a theme that has proven to do particularly well, ratings-wise, as our own film and television history will tell us.

Nora Aunor, our most prominent entertainment rags-to-riches story, first achieved fame via the talent-competition route. With TV's preoccupation with surface gloss, however, we wonder if the dark, tiny and once-shy superstar would have made it to the finals if she auditioned today!

Reality show for the business . . .

From page A2-8

TRUMP. He does the hiring— and the firing.

episodes, and we can understand why "The Apprentice" was "the No. 1 new show of the television season" in the US. The settings may be classy—golf courses, five-star hotels, a fashionable Manhattan loft—but the spice in this watchable show comes from a volatile mix of ambition, competition and good, old greed.

Very challenging

The business tasks are also very challenging: In one episode, the teams had to manage the Planet Hollywood restaurant on Times Square for two separate nights. To win, the teams had to exceed the enormous restaurant's revenues of the same day from the past year. And. of course, they had to top the other team's numbers, as well.

The contestants had been divided according to sex, and by this time, the women had already beaten the men thrice. There was a lot of bickering in both teams, especially when their plans weren't working, and they really screamed at each other on national television.

In a later episode, the teams had become co-ed. One team, headed by Kwame Jackson, was in charge of the Jessica Simpson concert at Trump Taj Mahal. The other team, headed by Bill Rancic, was in charge of the Chrysler Trump Golf Tournament at the Trump National Golf Club.

A lot of things went wrong in both camps—the Jackson group misplaced Miss Simpson twice (a transportation mix-up was responsible for the first, and a "space cadet" teammate for the second), and the Rancic group had a frost delay that had Mr. Trump threatening to fire Bill "like a dog" if he screwed up.

No newcomer

We didn't get to see who got fired in that particular episode, but we do know that the apprentice position finally went to Bill. As the founder of a multi-million dollar company (cigarsaroundtheworld.com), Bill is no newcomer to the business world. Neither were his competion—Kwame, for one, had a Harvard MBA.

"The Apprentice" then is restricted to people who've already had previous experience in doing business. And if you think business and finance are stodgy, think again. There's nothing quite as exciting as watching great, white-collar sharks snapping at each other over a piece of Trump meat!

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TAYLOR. Cited as "The Prettiest Girl in the World."

Hollywood's most beautiful people remembered

By Behn Cervantes

HOLLYWOOD is the Mecca of the utterly ambitious, and also the *most* beautiful bodies and faces. When we think of Hollywood, we recall John Barrymore touted as The Profile because of his classically chiselled features.

When 17-year-old Elizabeth Taylor was cited by Hollywood gossipmonger Louella Parsons (upon the prodding of Liz' ambitious mom) as "The Prettiest Girl in the World," not long after, Ava Gardner ("The Barefoot Contessa") was declared "The World's Most Beautiful Animal," thus eclipsing La Liz with the more all-inclusive title.

Preceding the two legendary film beauties was Greta Garbo, the statuesque Swedish import adored by pagan Hollywood publishers as The Divine.

Hollywood had other great beauties. Gorgeous, red-haired star Arlene Dahl was tall and well-proportioned. No wonder Hollywood machos like

HOLLYWOOD'S/ A2-6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

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Cinema One				S2pid Luv				My Movie											Red Diaries
Studio 23							Sports TV	Game Plan	7th Heaven		Boston Public (7:50 PM)	Gilmore Girls		Studio 23 Present				Real Deal	Cyber Pop
AXN	Hook						Rescue 911	Boarding Pass	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		A Knight's Tale				
Star World	Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape	When Hidden Cameras Attack	Knight Rider		Baywatch		Roswell		Dark Angel		TNA Wrestling		Mutant X		Coupling	The Office	Cops	Baywatch Hawaii	
CNN	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	CNN Business Traveller	CNN Presents		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Daily Show With John S	Late Edition
National Geographic	Big Bite Nite				Wildlife Diary	Critercam Wildtech Adventure	Creature Feature				Saturday Unlimited				Big Bite Nite				The Snake Wranglers
Lifestyle Network	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Data Plate	Enroll Live			Brian Maxwell Show	Royalty A-Z		Fashion Emergency	El True Hollywood Story		Planet Parent	Sweet Dreams	Fashion Trance
HBO			Clockstoppers			Mission Impossible				Men In Black II			Old School	Sex & The City: Boy Interrupted	The Bourne Identity		Pavilion Of Women (11:50PM)		
Star Movies			Hollywood One On One	Home Alone (4:35 PM)			Signs (6:15 PM)				The Grid			Con Air (9:25PM)				Air Strike (11:35PM)	
Cartoon Network	New Scooby & Scrappy-Doo Show	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	What's New Scooby Doo?	X-Men Evolution	The Powerpuff Girls	Atomic Betty	Xiaolin Showdown	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island			Power Rangers Wild Force	Samurai Jack	Time Squad	Harvey Birdman (11:15PM)	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	X-Men Evolution
ESPN				Goals!	X-Games - Day 3 Part 1 LA, CA		World Pool Masters 2004, Egmond Aan Zee		Premier Snooker League 2004 Wilshire				English Premier Football League (9:55 PM)				Super Basketball League Taiwan All Star Game		
Disney Channel	Sabrina's Secret Life	Lion King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery/ Kim Possible				That's So Raven				My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney		
Cinemax			Hanging By A Thread (4:15 PM)	The Fishin' King (4:45 PM)					Dead Heat (7:10 PM)				Dead Easy			The Core (10:40PM)			Along Came A Spider
Hallmark Channel	She's Too Young				Frankie And Hazel				Ann Rule's Stranger Beside Me				Happy Hour			Cactus Kids (10:35PM)			Napoleon (12:15AM)
Discovery Channel	Human Discovery		Extreme Machines		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		Human Senses		Extreme Discovery		
MTV Philippines					MTV Rockid	Dismissed			MTV Screen		Spring Break		MTV Boys						Non-Stop Hits
EWTN	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy In Song	Fatima Heaven's Peace Plan	Saints And Heroes	Faith Factory	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	The World Over		Octava Dies	The Church And Culture Today	Daily Mass		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	The Journey Home		Life on The Rock Encore		EWTN Gallery

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(From left to right): Noel R. Magsino (seated), Virgie M. Barlaan, Reynaldo L. Barlaan, Arturo R.
Ellen F. De Leon, Erlinda A. Mercado (seated)

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AY *Special*

Musicals for children showcased in CCP's theater festival

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we were invited to join the Board of Trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines last year, we made a number of proposals that our esteemed colleagues approved. One of them was for the CCP to focus in a major way on children's theater.

We made this particular proposal because we wanted to build up, not just young theater talents, but also the entire audience base for our performing arts, and we felt that children's theater was the way to do it.

We got this insight years ago, when we headed a Philippine theater delegation to Russia. Aside from performing there, we also viewed to quite a number of productions.

Answer

After a couple of shows, we were struck by the fact that all of the productions we watched were SRO affairs. We wondered what made the Russians such an enthusiastic theater audience, and we were told by our counterparts there that the answer was children's theater.

"SI MARYA AT SI KILING." Child performers retell the legend of Maria Makiling.

Since they were very young, Russians were encouraged to watch theater productions suitable to their age—and, early on, they developed a love for the performing arts. So, when they became adults, they continued to patronize stage productions, hence the SRO audiences we witnessed.

Sharing this experience with our colleagues at the CCP, we urged them to also make children's theater a priority, to eventually generate the enthusiastic audiences for the performing arts that we have been missing all these years.

Strong section

That's why we're happy to see that the CCP's National Theater Festival from Nov. 7 to 20 has a strong section on children's musicals. We urge you to patronize them, so that our incipient movement to generate the theater audiences of tomorrow can get off to a vigorous start:

"Pepe en Pilar" on Nov. 8, 9 and 10 at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, is a co-production with Gantimpala Theater Foundation. In the musical, Pepe and Pilar are faced with a crisis: their playground is about to be demolished to make way for a big shopping mall.

"Si Marya at Kiling" on Nov. 9 and 10 at Tanghalang Huseng Batute is a musical retelling of the legend of Maria Makiling, performed by children, for children; an Artist Inc. co-production.

Whimsical take

"Saranggola ni Pepe" on Nov. 17 at Tanghalang Huseng Batute is a co-production with Music Theater Philippines. A whimsical take on a boy and his kite, combining the visuals of Japanese origami and the robust décor of the Philippine jeepney. The musical will also be shown at the GSIS Theater on Nov. 12 and 13.

Peta's "Hans Christian Andersen Must Be Filipino" on Nov. 18 at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino transports Thumbelina, the Little Match Girl, and the Tin Soldier to the streets of the Philippines.

"Ang Prinsipe ng Buwan" on Nov. 20 at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino is an interactive musical about the search for the elusive prince of the moon.

And "Sita and Rama" on Nov. 20, a co-production with Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, is the rod puppet version of the Indian epic, "Ramayana." Call 832-3681.

'A Flair for Reading'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"A FLAIR for Reading," my photo exhibit featuring people who read, runs from Nov. 8 to 22 at the LRI Art Pavillion of the LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia st., Bel-air II, Makati City.

"Reading is the best form of education!," my mother would tell me when I was a child. She taught me how to read and do a book report. At 11, I was reading books that belonged to my brothers: Alberto Moravia's "Two Women," the works of DH Lawrence, and the Brothers Grimm fairytales. Thus, I learned to appreciate literature.

In college, I had a wonderful teacher in English, Mrs. Adela Vicente, who taught us the beauty of words and led me to pursue masteral studies in Literature at the Ateneo de Manila University.

I enjoyed the works of Herman Hesse, particularly "Siddharta" and "Demian." I took up Shakespearean subjects—from history, tragedy and comedy. My professor said, "The best sellers are the Bible and William Shakespeare's works." They still are.

At the end of the day, I did not become a wordsmith, but a visual artist—a photographer. But, reading helped me understand the big picture of situations.

To my mother and my mentors (including Doreen Gamboa Fernandez), I dedicate this photo exhibit. Hopefully, this will be an annual activity, to encourage people to read again.

Subjects

My subjects are Ms Jullie Yap Daza, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc (in her library at home). Loren Legarda, Marlene Aguilar, and TOWNS' winners, Dr. Tatie Fortun and environmentalist Chin Chin Gutierrez. The list also includes the entire Newsbreak staff, filmmaker Marilou Diaz Abaya and the Singson sisters (Dr. Becky Singson, Dr. Ronna Singson-Ledesma, Kelly Singson-Hugo and Rissa Singson).

Chin Chin Gutierrez compares reading "to a daydream or a soothing lullaby. It is an intimate act during which time, distance or existence is suspended, and provides room to treasure the rare moments of reflective solitude."

Email the author at mandy-navasero@photopro.com.ph

CHIN Chin Gutierrez (right) compares reading "to a daydream or a soothing lullaby."

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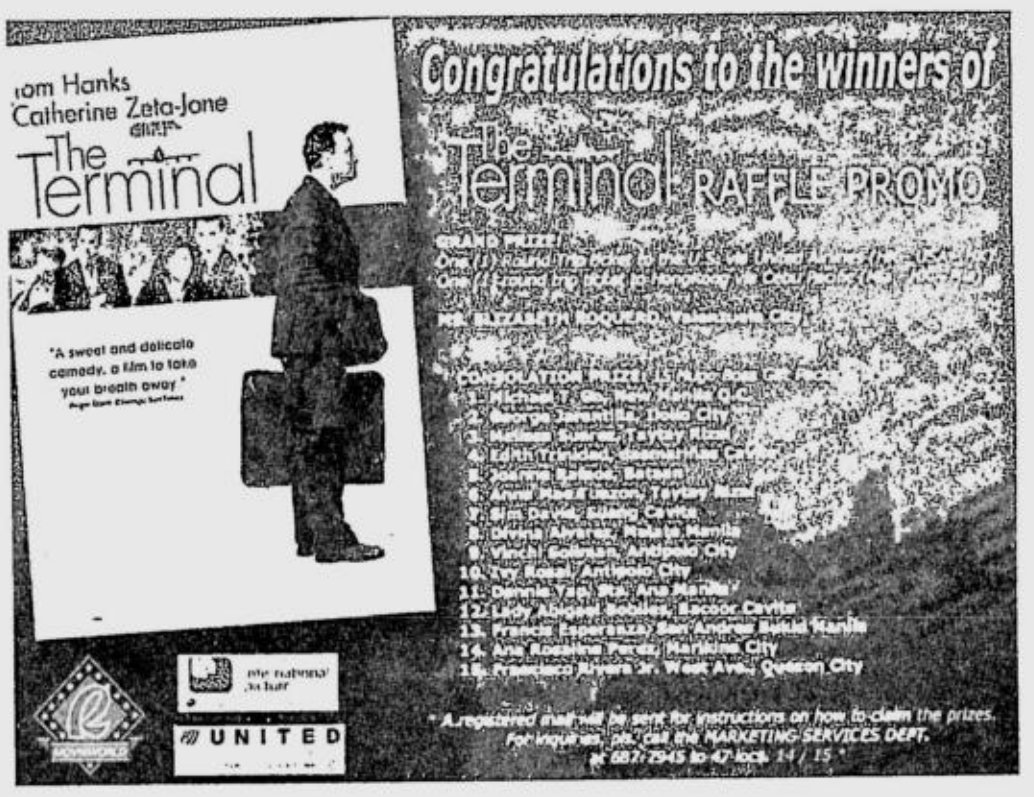
PG 13

2 WHITE CHICKS
10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:15
PG-13

3 SHARK TALE
11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30
GP

4 SKY CAPTAIN
12:10, 2:35, 5:10 7:35, 10:20
GP



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AYALA CINEMAS THX

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ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
THX 1 WHITE CHICKS	1 CELLULAR	1 SHARK TALE	5 LADDER 49	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 WHITE CHICKS 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 12:00	1 THE PUNISHER
2 CELLULAR	2 WHITE CHICKS	2 THE DOLL MASTER	6 WHITE CHICKS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 CELLULAR 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55, 12:00	2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 THE DOLL MASTER	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 CELLULAR 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15	7 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOUSE OF FLYINGDAGGERS 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45	3 TWISTED
4 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW		4 STEAL		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WIMBLEDON 1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	4 SHARK TALE
5 SHARK TALE	4 SHARK TALE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1) 1 LADDER 49/ GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 SHARK TALE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
		2 WHITE CHICKS 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
GOLD'S GYM EVENT October 23 THE LIBRESSE CRAZY CO-ED CHALLENGE October 24	89.9 POCKET CONCERT October 23 MTV Fashionista Model Search October 24	WOODRIDGE SCHOOL'S UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION October 23, 2004

Entertainment LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES FEATURING THOR October 23, 7:00pm to 10:00pm	ALIVE AT FIVE! Live it up at Greenbelt's Cocktail Hour Enjoy special discounts from participating restaurants from 5pm to 8pm

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12, 2004

Ayala MUSEUM — MASTERS OF CRAFT EVENT (c/o Young President's Organization), October 22. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

GERMANMONTH 2004

Greenbelt 1 Theater

Oct 23 7:30pm
- Trains' n' Roses "Zugvoegel-Einmal nach hart"
- Run Lola Run "Lola rennt"

Oct 24 7:30pm
- Life is all you get "Das Leben ist eine Baustelle"
- Mostly Martha "Bella Martha"

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October 29, 31 & November 2, 2004
11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm
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Alabang Town Center — October 30, 2004 4:30 pm
Ayala Center Makati — October 31, 2004 4:30 pm
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october 25 & 26
glorietta 1 & 4
greenbelt 1 & 3
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katie holmes
first daughter

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mtrcb rating: general audience (G)

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1 WHITE CHICK
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2 CELLULAR
11.05 FS/ 11.35 MF/ 1:40/ 3.45/ 5.30/ 7.30/ 9:30 LFS/ 10.00 LMF/ 11.35 END

CELLULAR SUBJECT TO MTRCB Rating

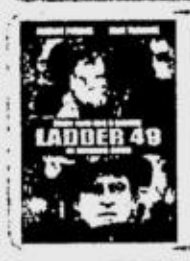
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM City Southmall Cinema 3
SM City Fairview Cinema 4
SM Tutuban Cinema 3
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 3

DOLL MASTER MTRCB Rating: R13

SM City Manila Cinema 9
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM City Southmall Cinema 10
SM City North Edsa Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 12

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10
SM City Fairview Cinema 9
SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM City North Edsa Cinema 1



LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 9
SM Megamall Cinema 10

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW**

SM Southmall Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1
SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM City North EDSA Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4

STEAL SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Manila Cinema 11
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6
SM City Southmall Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 11

WHITE CHICKS MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Tutuban Cinema 7
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2
SM City Southmall Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM City Fairview Cinema 7
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 9

FENG SHUI SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 1
SM City Southmall Cinema 7
SM City Fairview Cinema 1

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 12

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 2
SM City Southmall Cinema 5
SM City Fairview Cinema 5

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: GP
SM City Manila Cinema 5
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM City North EDSA Cinema 2
SM Southmall Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 5

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SM CINEMA

GARDNER. "Most Beautiful Animal."

Holly-wood

From page A2-4

"Tarzan" star, Lex Barker and South American dreamboat Fernando Lamas fell head over heels in love with the future mom of Lorenzo Lamas.

In the '30s and '40s, the ethereal Ilona Massey was considered 'The most beautiful' and with reason: Hedy Lamarr of "Ecstasy" notoriety was likewise declared "The Most Beautiful Woman in the World." In the mid-'50s, German import Ursulla Thiess, who later married Robert Taylor, was accorded the same title.

List

I have my own 'Most Beautiful' list. In it, La Ava tops them all, followed by the sultry Elaine Stewart who, despite her beauty and talent, never got to the top of Hollywood's firmament.

Stewart will be forever be remembered as the luscious gal who greeted Kirk Douglas at an ornate winding staircase in "The Bad and The Beautiful." She stole that scene from Lana Turner, another legendary Hollywood beauty.

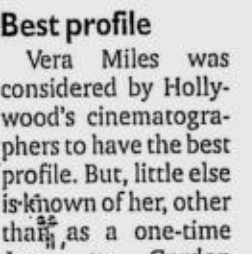
I always prefer the long-limbed, dark-haired beauties, so when Jennifer O'Neal appeared in "Summer of '42" (1971), I quickly included her in my list. Alas, like Elaine Stewart, her potential was never fulfilled.

Hollywood's attention for the physical went beyond the star's face. So, Marlene Dietrich, Betty Grable and Angie Dickinson were known for their shapely limbs, all insured for a million dollars at one point.

Best profile

Vera Miles was considered by Hollywood's cinematographers to have the best profile. But, little else is known of her, other than as a one-time Jane to Gordon Scott's "Tarzan," and as the beleaguered sister of Janet Leigh in "Psycho."

California's mecca of myths and dreams continued to concoct titles as the need arises: Clara Bow was the "It Girl," Jean Harlow "The Blonde Bombshell," Ann Sheridan was the "Oomph Girl," and the diminutive Carmen Miranda was "The Brazilian Bombshell."



HARLOW. "The Blonde Bombshell."

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Pitoy Moreno and the stars

From page A2-2

lover of films. He understood the essence of charisma in the cinema, and the unique bond that stars had with their fans.

Taken in the specific context of Sampaguita's movie productions, this meant added gloss and sheen, glamour at its most inspiring and captivating.

Fashion shows

That's why, when the stars of Sampaguita Pictures graced fashion shows or social occasions in their Pitoy Moreno creations, they had a unique kind of impact on onlookers. Moreno's creations vivified the stellar look that Doc Perez was after, and his contract stars were imbued with a distinct aura of sophistication that enhanced their already striking beauty.

In fact, a female at another film company candidly expressed her regret that her own studio didn't enhance its contract stars' look as effectively as Sampaguita Pictures—and Pitoy Moreno—did.

For tickets to "Ginintuang Moreno—A Tribute to Pitoy Moreno," call 891-9999.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 DD Dolby STEAL — 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
4 LADDER 49 — 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
5 dts THE DOLL MASTER — 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
6 DD Dolby THE SIN — 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7 DD Dolby SKY CAPTAIN — 11:00 am 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 9:00 pm

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MANILA

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MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	LADDER 49 / SHARK TALE / FLYING DAGGERS / SKY CAPTAIN
PREMIERE THEATRE	SHARK TALE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LADDER 49
CINEMA-2	TUKSO SI CHARITO 2
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	SIN
CINEMA-14	SHARK TAKE
CINEMA-15	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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LADDER 49 PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:10	SHARK TALE GP 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS - PG13 12:30,3:00 STEAL - R13 5:30,7:30,9:30	SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	CELLULAR PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

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1	CELLULAR 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:10 PG-13
2	WHITE CHICKS 10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 PG-13
3	SHARK TALE 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30 GP
4	SKY CAPTAIN 12:10, 2:35, 5:10 7:35, 10:20 GP

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5 CELLULAR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 WHITE CHICKS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 SHARK TALE 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
8 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	9 SKY CAPTAIN 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	10 WIMBLEDON 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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1 CELLULAR 10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00		
2 THE DOLL MASTER 10:20, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40	3 LADDER 49 10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	4 THE SIN 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
5 WHITE CHICKS 10:55, 1:15, 3:25, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00	6 STEAL 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45	SKY CAPTAIN 10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00

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THE SIN 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	5 CELLULAR 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
LADDER 49 10:20, 12:30, 2:40, 7:00, 9:10	6 SHARK TALE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	WHITE CHICKS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
SKY CAPTAIN 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10	8 THE DOLL MASTER 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

NOVALICHES — 935-3229 / 31

LADDER 49 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	5 SHARK TALE 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15	6 THREE 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
WHITE CHICKS 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30	SKY CAPTAIN 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:20
4 FENG SHUI 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30	8 RESIDENT EVIL 2 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:25

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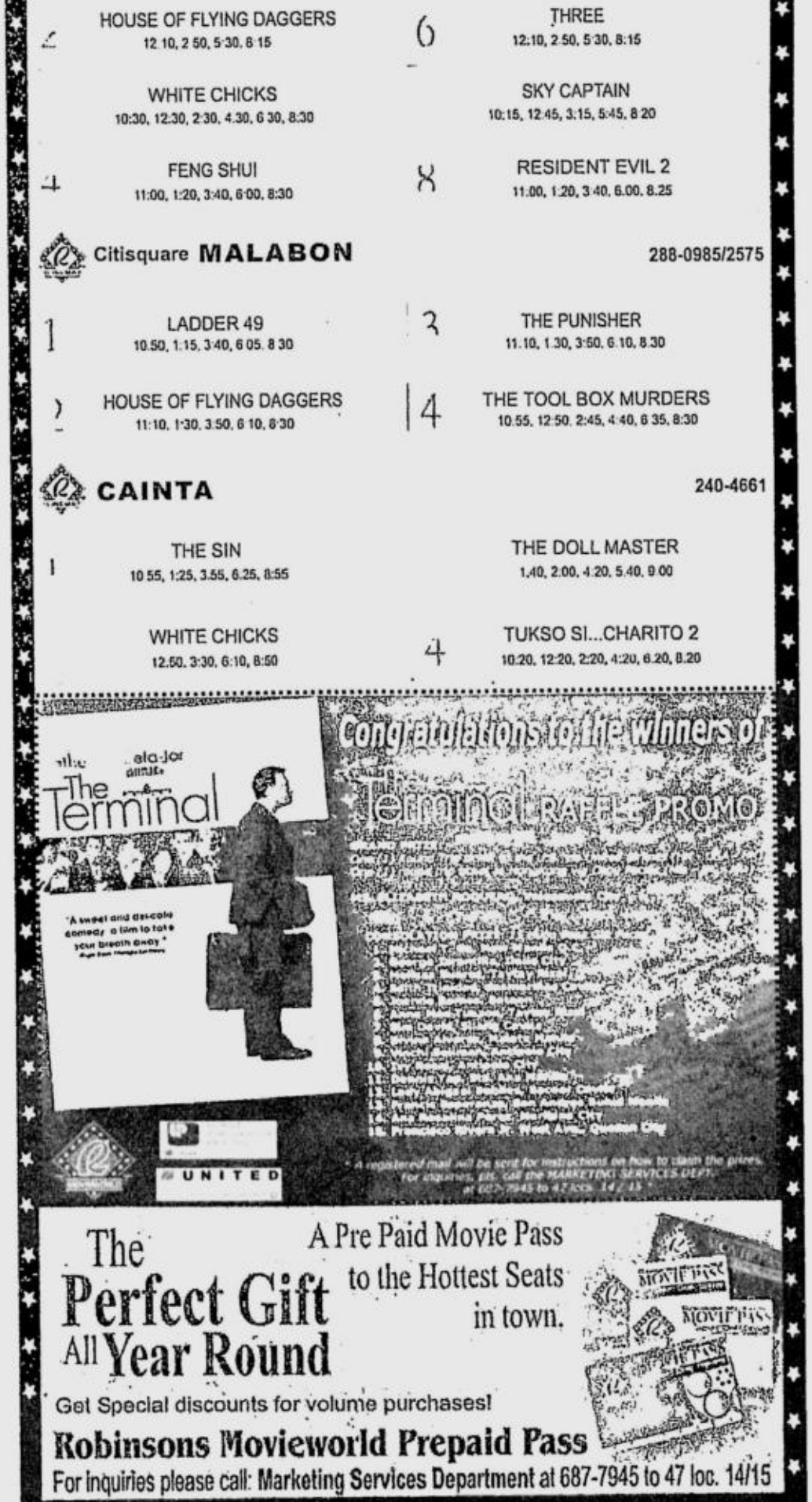
1 LADDER 49 10:50, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30	3 THE PUNISHER 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30
2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30	4 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10:55, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30

CAINTA — 240-4661

1 THE SIN 10:55, 1:25, 3:55, 6:25, 8:55	THE DOLL MASTER 1:40, 2:00, 4:20, 5:40, 9:00
WHITE CHICKS 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50	4 TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20



Mendes CD represents the best in easy-listening music

MENDES. Has helped shape what the recording industry is today.

By Noelani Torre

TODAY'S youth may be more familiar with Ricky Martin and company than with Sergio Mendes and his Brazil 66, but everybody, young and old alike, can surely sing along to Mendes classics like "Take This Love," "Never Gonna Let You Go" and "What Do We Mean to Each Other."

When we gave Mendes' "The Ultimate Hits: 3 Decades of Music" a spin, we discovered these and several other well-loved songs that we never knew were his. As the title indicates, this is a compilation of selected hits from his 30-plus years in the international music scene.

Covers

The 19 tracks in the disc also include covers of other classics like Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Waters of March," the Beatles' "Fool on the Hill," Cole Porter's "Night and Day," and Simon and Garfunkel's "Scarborough Fair."

A native of Brazil, Mendes is one of the most well-known exponents of bossa nova music. He has a background in jazz, having worked with industry lights like Jobim and Art Farmer. The result of these influences is a blend of jazz and pop that represents the best in easy-listening music.

Mendes established his group, Brazil 66, in 1966 with him on keyboards, Bob Matthews on bass, Jao Palma on drums, Jose Soares on percussion, and Janis Hansen and Lani Hall on vocals. They proceeded to conquer the airwaves of that period, making Mendes the topselling Brazilian artist of the late '60s, and among the world's top five.

Playlist

Mendes and company continued to make their mark in the following decades, and their songs are still airing today. As a matter of fact, what this disc's playlist reminds us of is afternoons in the province where we grew up, when DJs would lull their listeners with light and easy fare guaranteed to go down well with anyone. Older people will probably be reminded of their youth, when bossa nova was still considered the newest craze and jazz was enjoying another golden age.

This music has proven to be influential in our part of the world. You can still hear traces of it in the songs of the dozens of soft pop and lounge acts all over the country. They probably grew up listening to Sergio Mendes and Brazil 66 , too.

Tribute

MCA Music, the folks behind this compilation, made this album "as a tribute to the man who is considered as one of those who shaped what the recording industry is today."

The CD also contains hard to find songs, including "Let's Give A Little More This Time," "Rainbow's End," "Put A Little Love Away," "Hey, Look At The Sun" and "Waiting For Love."

"Ultimate Hits" reminds us of what easy-listening music should be—mellow, polished, well-written, and performed with enough genuine feeling to last 30 years—and more!

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Ces and Ching, gifted thespians

By Behn Cervantes

QUESADA. Now acts with comic "royalty" like Dolphy.

CES Manggay and Ching Arellano joined the UP Repertory Company in 1977 when they auditioned for "Pagsambang Bayan."

I decided to stage the play by Bonifacio Ilagan, a dramatic presentation based on the Catholic and Protestant liturgy first written in English for an ecumenical conference held in Hong Kong in 1974. It was a far more manifest statement against Martial Law. It also demanded that citizens take an active role against suppression, so it was a fine play to make students more active in nationalist concerns.

Detained

Because of its controversial theme, three of the cast members were arrested for "seditious" activities. I was detained in Bicutan not long after successful and riotous performances that attracted students from various schools.

I accepted everybody who auditioned, if only to acknowledge their courage to appear in a blatantly anti-government production. The cast was headed by Orestes Ojeda, who risked his flourishing career by appearing in the play.

Reed-like Ces was cast as a student, while the swarthy Ching, with his proletarian looks, played a worker. They immediately became active with UP Rep activities.

Ching was a standout in comedy, and appeared in energetic revivals of Julian Balmaceda comedies. He was a favorite to play the character, Isko in the *tula-dula*, "Iskolar ng Bayan," by Richie Valencia.

Dramatic roles

Ces, a livewire off-stage, was into the dramatic roles. She was especially effective in the Palanca award-winning play, "Panahon ni Cristy," by Ed Marana.

The two were cast again in "Sigaw ng Bayan," also by Boni, so their political commitment and daring were obvious.

Ces eventually married UP Rep actor Og Quesada. These days, the sensitive and erstwhile slim *colegiala* is recognized on TV as the comic Ces Quesada, acting alongside comic "royalty" like Dolphy.

It is a pity that her dramatic ability has not been tapped, but you can't argue with success!

'THE APPRENTICE'

Reality show for the business-savvy

By Noelani Torre

"MONEY, money, money," screams the theme song of one of NBC's newest reality TV shows, "The Apprentice." Indeed, it is all about money, as the winner of this particular contest will be granted "the dream job of a lifetime with The Trump Organization, and a hefty six-figure salary." Unlike the usual cash prize, this one gives its winner the chance to make even more money after the show is over.

Deemed "the classiest reality show" by some critics, the goal of "The Apprentice" is to end up with the contestant who is the most business-savvy, and who has the most luck.

18 candidates

The show begins with 18 candidates who are divided into two teams by the show's star and executive producer, Donald Trump. They get to live together in a posh Manhattan apartment and they will have to accomplish difficult business tasks that "will test their intelligence, chutzpah and street-smarts."

The winning team gets a perk, and the losing team gets to go to the boardroom—where Trump will fire one of them.

We were able to watch some of the first season's

REALITY/ A2-3

SATURDAY Special

JOLIE. Wins over Halle Berry, Britney Spears and Beyoncé.

Angelina Jolie named sexiest woman

LOS ANGELES—Angelina Jolie, who manages to mesmerize men—and fight off robot invaders—with just one eye in her new movie, has been named the "sexiest woman alive" in the latest edition of Esquire magazine.

Jolie, featured as the alluring, courageous fighter pilot with an eye patch in "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow," was the top pick of the magazine's editors and mostly male readers to grace the cover of Esquire's annual "Women We Love" issue.

Undersea adventure

The 29-year-old Jolie, who also lends her voice and sexy persona to a vampish fish named Lola in the computer-animated undersea adventure, "Shark Tale," received seven percent of all votes cast by readers.

Fellow Oscar winner and "Catwoman" star, Halle Berry, ran a close second with six percent. Newlywed pop princess Britney Spears made the cut this year at No. 3.

In an Esquire interview accompanying a cover photo of the actress, Jolie acknowledged her image as being "wild, bad, weird or crazy." "The tattoos, the blood, cutting myself—it's all very much who I am," she said. "If you knew me privately, you might think I was even wilder than my reputation. But, I'm also softer. I'm softer than people think."

She also reveals that she recently bought an airplane, and is taking flying lessons, a hobby she embraced because she and her three-year-old adopted son share a fascination with planes.

She says, "I have to concentrate on my son," she said. "That's why I have lovers right now and not a boyfriend. I don't want my son to start calling somebody 'Daddy' unless that person's gonna stay."

Marriage

Jolie's marriage to Billy Bob Thornton ended in divorce in May 2003. She will next be seen as Alexander the Great's mom in Oliver Stone's upcoming epic, "Alexander."

Rounding out the field of leading contenders for sexiest woman in the magazine's November issue were TV personality Jessica Simpson, sultry R&B singer Beyoncé, Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron and "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston. *Reuters*

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Positive feedback for CEB process

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Oct. 2, the country's leading movie producers met with the members of the Film Development Council of the Philippines' Cinema Evaluation Board at the Asian Institute of Management. The CEB and the producers evaluated the effectivity of the board in helping producers with amusement tax rebates, to raise their films' level of quality.

Producers were informed that a total of 32 movies have been submitted by producers for grading by the CEB. Of these, 21 were favorably graded and granted incentives—two films were graded "A" (100 percent rebate on amusement taxes), and 19 were graded "B" (65 percent amusement tax rebate).

Total collection

Total collections from moviehouses amounted to P60 million, of which some P39 million has been remitted to producers of graded films.

The producers present were asked for feedback on the CEB process, and they said they were generally happy with it. They expressed appreciation for the extra income they got as reward for the quality of their productions, and said they would make even better movies in the future.

For their part, some CEB members said they were aware of the difficulties that the Filipino movie industry has been experiencing for the past five years, and they have adjusted their mind-set to some degree in cognizance of these problems.

Informed view

The producers said they appreciated the CEB's informed view about the realities of making movies in the Philippines. But some of them urged the CEB not to adjust its standards of quality too much, or else "we won't have anything to aspire to."

The CEB members welcomed this reaction from some producers, and the long discussion ended with everyone pledging to work together to further encourage the production of good movies in this country, so the local film audience will be well-served.

The producers present included Lily Monteverde of Regal, Roselle M. Teo of Regal/MAQ Films, Tess Fuentes of Star Cinema, Tony Gloria of Unitel, Robbie Tan of Seiko, Cesar Carreon of Violet Films, Jobb Gosamo of Angorra, and John Suarez of Solar.

Discussion

The CEB members who participated in the discussion were Doy del Mundo, Digna Santiago, Tommy Abuel, Mitch Valdes, Juaniyo Arcellana, Christine Dayrit, Marissa Floirendo, Leah Navarro and this writer.

After the long discussion, participants interacted with each other on an individual basis to share some less "official" notes. For instance, we were greatly heartened when we heard that the producer of a hit movie got an

POSITIVE/ A3-3

Its taste is the latest buzz.

Evans and Basinger shine in exciting thriller

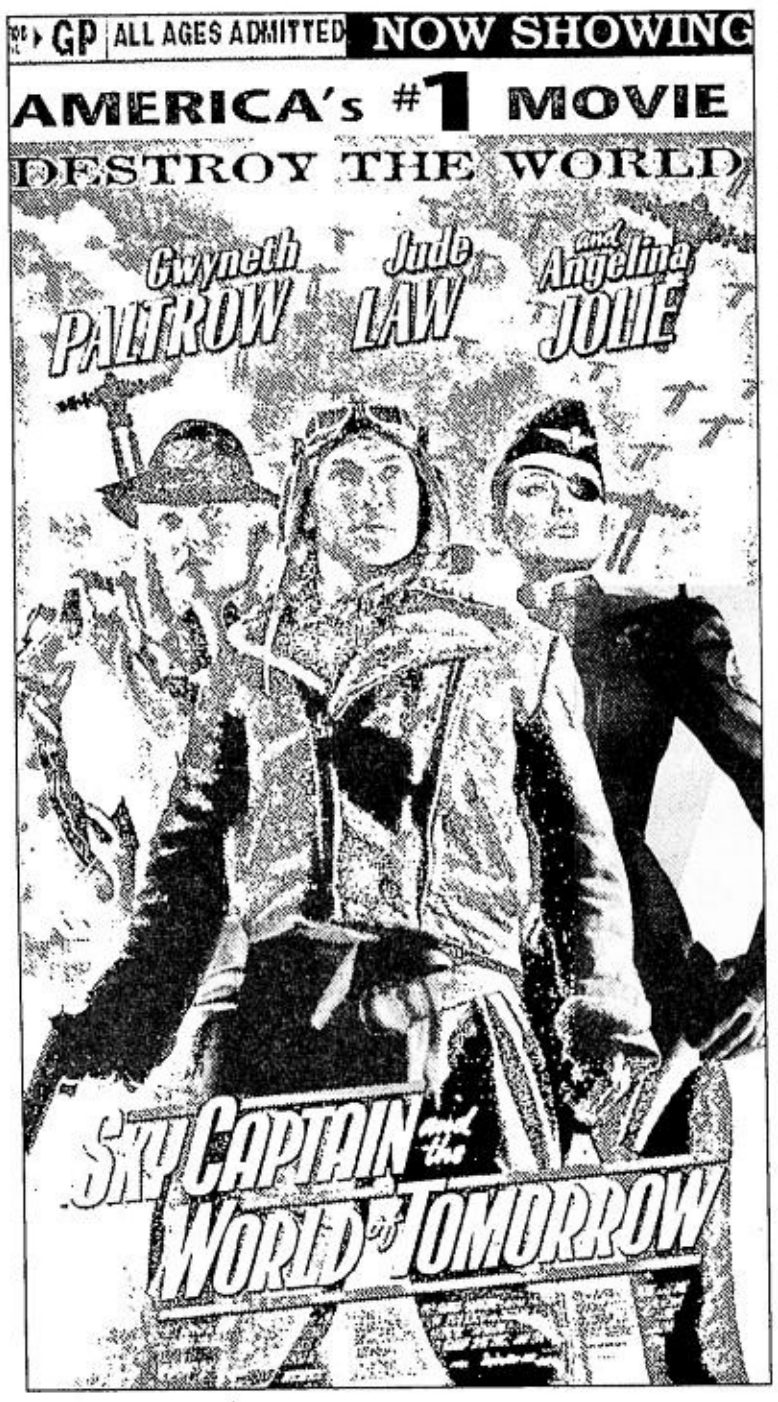
From page A3-3

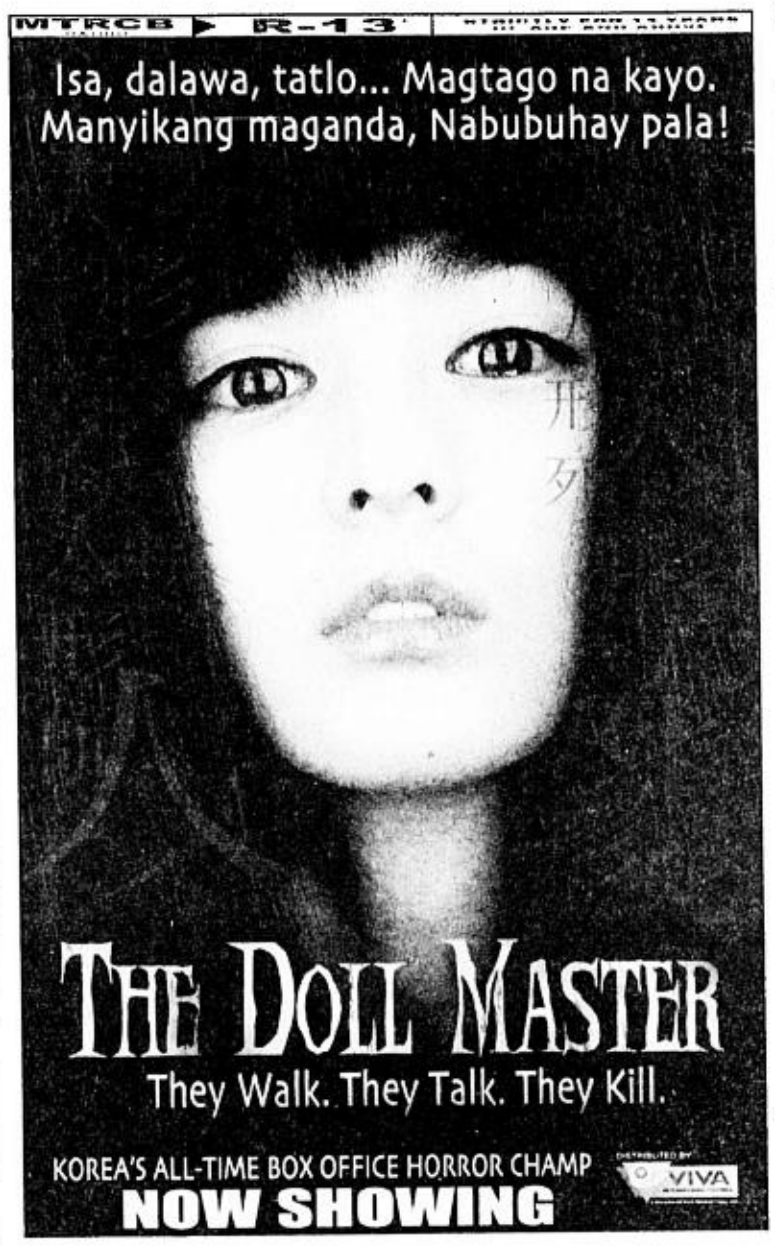
"The Doll Master"
D: Yong Ki Jeong
S: Lim Eun Kyung, Kim Yoo Mi

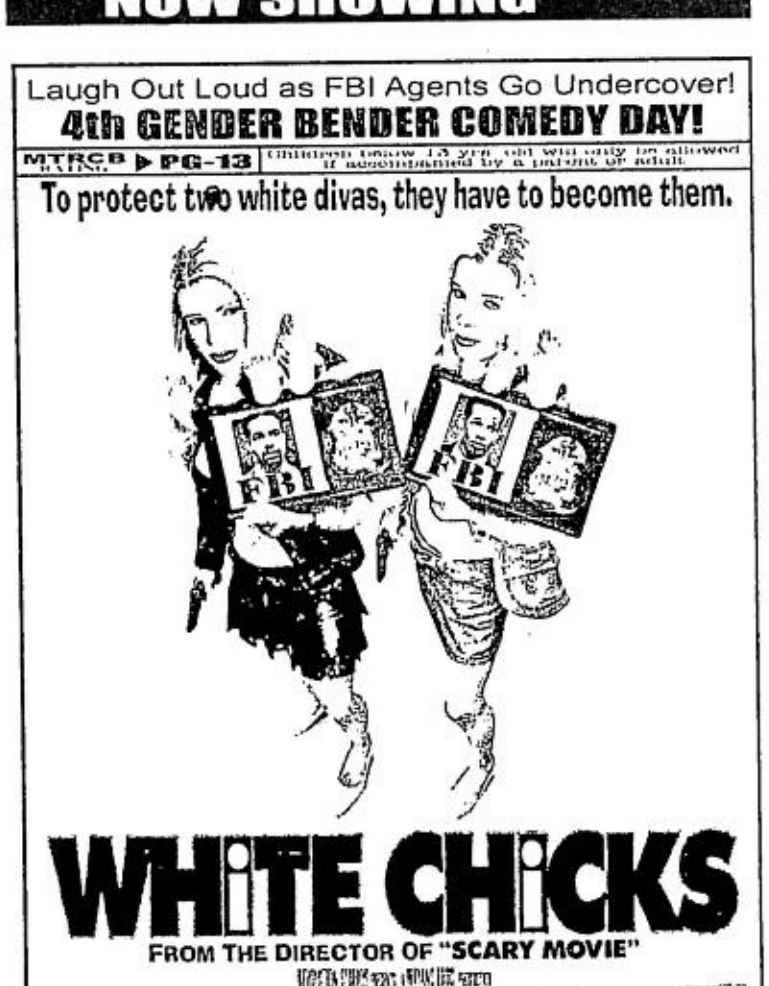
A pretty sculptor, a doll-toting novelist, a frisky high school girl, a photographer and a male model gather in a secluded doll gallery, far away from the hustle and bustle of Seoul, to model for their likenesses created by a wheelchair-borne doll maker. They are pawns in a 60-year-old act of retribution.

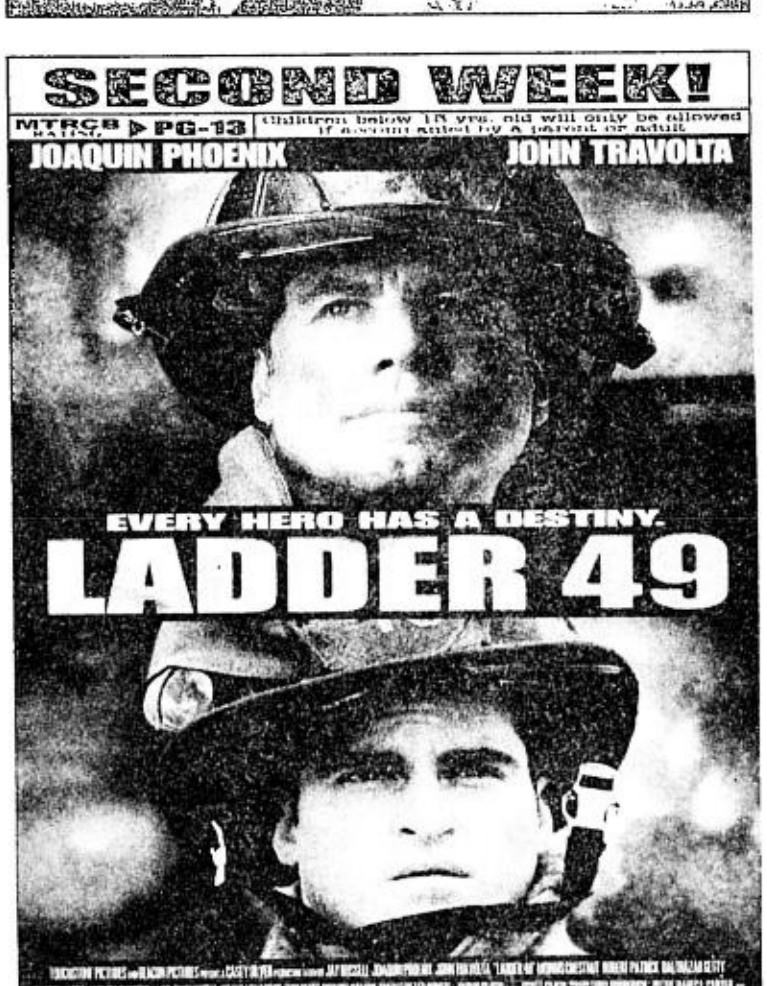
The claustrophobic atmosphere, the seemingly-inaccessible forest, excellent production values, and a good performance from Kim Yoo Mi (last seen in Byeong Ki Ahn's "Phone") make for an engaging albeit predictable frightfest.

WAYANS brothers play W.A.S.P. "princesses" in zany comedy.









NOW SHOWING

Evans and Basinger shine in exciting thriller

By Rito P. Asilo

"Cellular"
D: David R. Ellis
S: Chris Evans, Kim Basinger

IN David R. Ellis' ingenuously crafted thriller, Ryan (Chris Evans), recently dumped by his girlfriend for his carefree ways and irresponsible demeanor, receives a random call on his cell phone from a stranger, Jessica Martin (Kim Basinger), a 10th grade biology teacher.

The distressed caller claims that she's been kidnapped and is locked up in an attic with a wall phone that had been smashed to smithereens with a sledgehammer by stern-faced goons, who turn out to be—surprise!—dirty cops scrambling to get their hands on an incriminating videocam recording of a rubout that Jessica's husband, Greg, has witnessed.

Jessica taps and successfully tinkers with the rotary-dial device—McGyver-style—and soon finds Ryan at the other end of the line. Unable to get police assistance, the unnerved young man takes matters into his hands, his cell phone glued to his ears while Jessica guides him through the whole hullabaloo. There's one problem, though: Low batt!

Ellis' consistently diverting nailbiter possesses the edge-of-your-seat urgency of Keanu Reeves' "Speed" and Colin Farell's "Phone Booth," as it follows the unlikely hero's mad rush to thwart Jessica's antagonists. (Cameo alert: Fil-Am producer Dean Devlin makes a rare appearance as Ryan's cab driver.)

Questions about plot implausibilities surface (Ryan goes after the bad guys. How does he confront them—shoot them with his cell phone?), but if you get past these, you'll have a smashing good time.

The film is further aided by brisk pacing; convincing performances (from 50-year-old Basinger, glamourous and beautiful as ever; Evans, in full-throttle heartthrob mode, and the scene-stealing William H. Macy), and a clever sense of humor that subtly and satirically pokes fun at the quirkiness of human nature—and at man's constant fascination with and ever-growing dependence on all things modern and digital.

"White Chicks"
D: Keenen Ivory Wayans
S: Shawn and Marlon Wayans

To salvage crime-busting careers on the verge of collapse, two disgraced FBI agents, siblings Kevin and Marcus Copeland (Shawn and Marlon Wayans), take on an undercover assignment to protect hotel heiresses Tiffany and Brittany Wilson from a kidnapping plot.

After a fateful car accident on the way to a lavish society bash, where a high-profile sting is set up against the criminal minds, the bruised high-society girls decide to skip the event—they can't be seen with facial cuts and scars!

So, the luckless brothers disguise themselves as the Wilsons and, thanks to the magic of technology, the Copelands—male, black, big-boned and all—are "miraculously" morphed into beautiful and vibrant Caucasian women, who eerily resemble Lisa Kudrow and Juliette Lewis!

Soon after the initial aww-shucks wonder, though, Wayans' surprisingly vapid, tediously predictable movie goes out of kilter, and never quite recovers—it even resorts to gas jokes that went out of style in the '70s. Besides, hasn't Michael Jackson proven a long time ago that science can indeed turn black men into scary, white-plastic humanoids?

EVANS/ A3-2

BASINGER AND EVANS. Co-star in "Cellular," David R. Ellis' diverting nailbiter.

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'THE MUSICMAN AT 50'

Mr. C takes a well-deserved bow

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

CAYABYAB. The original singers of his songs added glitter to the show.

WHEN news spread about *maestro* Ryan Cayabyab's "The Musicman at 50" concert at the CCP, I started to save for the pricey tickets because I didn't want to pass up the chance to enjoy his musical extravaganza. After all, Ryan Cayabyab *is* Ryan Cayabyab!

In my teens, I remember staying up late to watch his popular TV show, "Ryan Ryan Musikahan," and I was saddened when it went off the air.

I was similarly thrilled at the prospect of the country's best performers interpreting Mr. C's greatest hits. I knew it was going to be an especially grand "*musikahan*," although I wondered if the inclusion of popular young stars was a good idea. But, I was wrong.

Rendition

For instance, Piolo Pascual's rendition of "Sa May Bintana," originally sung by Smokey Mountain's James Coronel, was well received. The song suited the actor's voice, and I wouldn't be surprised if that song will end up in his next album. Ditto with Angelika dela Cruz, who played the young Katy dela Cruz (in the excerpts from the musical, "Katy!") with admirable verve.

Of course, the veteran singers who sang the original versions of Cayabyab's classics added glitter to the show: Hajji Alejandro (the grand prize-winning Metropop classic, "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika"), Gary Valenciano ("Once Upon a Life"), Basil Valdez, Kuh Ledesma and Leo Valdez interpreting songs from the musical "Rama Hari," and Mitch Valdes from "Katy!"

Janno Gibbs provided some comic touches with his funny antics as he played the role of Mr. C, as the *maestro* is fondly called. But, he charmed the crowd when he belted "Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka," proving that he is one of the country's best singers.

Theme song

It was heartening to see Mr. C's children perform the theme song from the movie, "Ang Lalake sa Buhay ni Selya"—son Toma on the piano and daughter Krina showcasing her beautiful soprano. The gifted teens have undoubtedly inherited the musical genes of their parents!

Other notable numbers were Grace Nono's rendition of "Iduyan Mo" and a musical treat that featured Cayabyab's discoveries that included Geneva Cruz (from Smokey Mountain) and Jolina Magdangal (14K).

That night, the new collection featuring the San Miguel Master Chorale (SMMC), "Great Original Pilipino Music by Ryan Cayabyab," was also launched. I bet it will duplicate the enviable feat of the recent "Great Filipino Love Songs," featuring the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO), all the way to the top of the chart.

When Cayabyab finally appeared onstage, he was greeted by a well-deserved standing ovation. Thank you for the music, Mr. C!

Positive feedback . . .

From page A3-1

extra P6 million from the tax rebate the film was entitled to when it was graded "B" by the CEB.

P6 million is serious money, and strong motivation for that producer to keep making quality films. Let's hope that other producers get the message and also raise their own filmmaking standards, so everyone, especially the local film audience, benefits.

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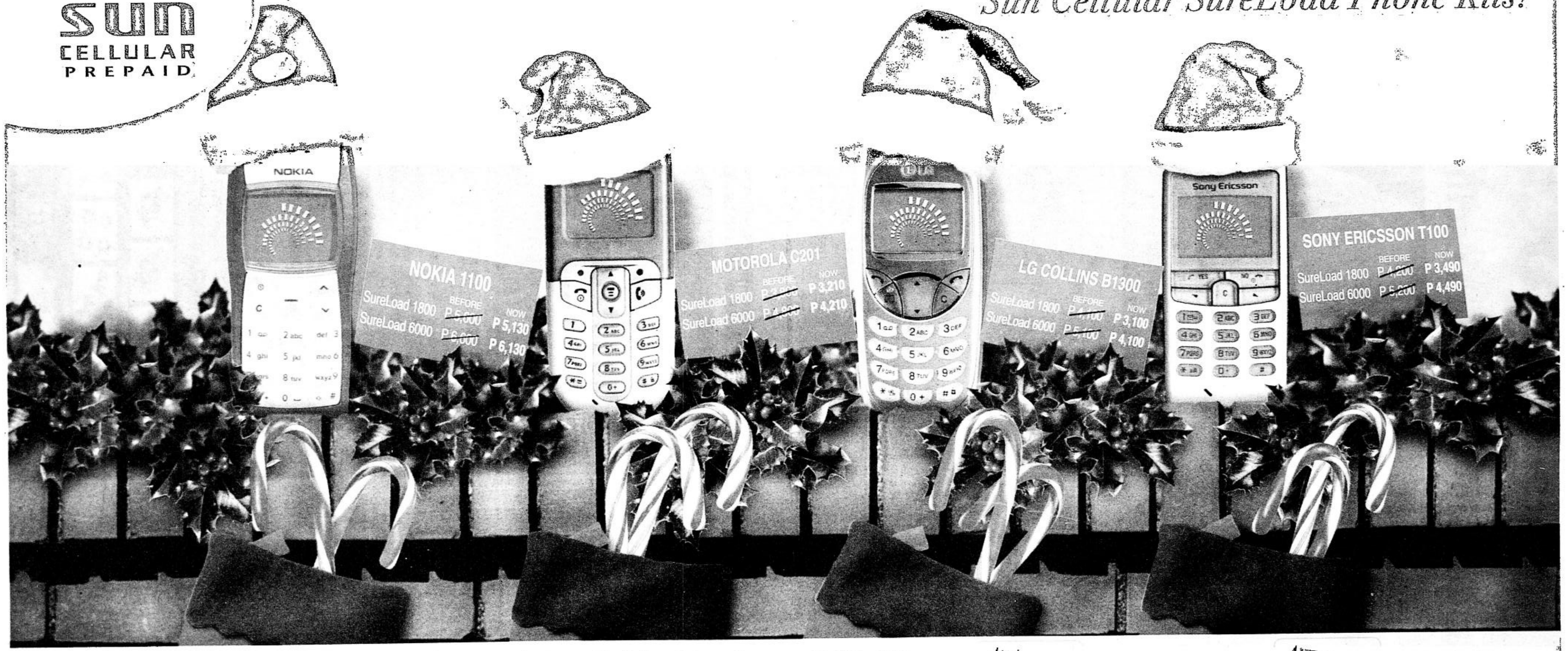

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2597, Series of 2004.

WILSON. Accomplishments in theater.

SATURDAY Special

A tale of two Moniques

LHUILLIER. Toast of Hollywood's fashionistas.

By Nestor U. Torre

TWO Moniques, Wilson and Lhuillier, are very much in the new these days, due to their accomplishments in the fields of theater and fashion, respectively.

Monique Wilson's New Voice Company is staging Sam Mendes' revival "reconceptualization" of the hit musical, "Cabaret," from Nov. 5 to Dec. 4 at Music Museum.

Monique co-directs the musical with Rito Asilo, and she also plays the lead female role of Sally Bowles, with her brother Jamie as the Master of Ceremonies. Other principal players include Michael Williams, Joy Virata, Leo Rialp, Bonggoy Manahan, Lynn Sherman, John Mulhall, Roselyn Perez, Tami Monsod and Jenny Jamora.

The production is expected to knock the socks off some theater buffs with its edgy take on Berlin's seedy and decadent underworld when Hitler was rising to power.

Shock waves

All to the good, because the arts are supposed not just to entertain, but also to disturb and inspire. We trust that the "shock waves" engendered by NVC's latest show will have a bracing and invigorating effect on the local musical-theater scene.

For the past 10 years, Monique's New Voice troupe has provided alternative theater fare that has piqued some people, particularly those who have traditional, conservative views related to gender and sexual issues.

On the other hand, NVC's productions have also pricked the conscience of other viewers, and made them rethink their stand on those issues.

The theater company's staging of "Cabaret" is its latest salvo in this regard, and here's to more shock waves to come!

For her part, Monique Lhuillier has shot up the fashion world's stellar firmament like a comet in the past couple of years. She is now the toast, not just of Philippine fashion, but of Hollywood.

Proof positive of this was the "Entertainment Tonight" feature on her that we recently viewed on the Etc. channel. It gushed over the gowns Monique had designed for show biz luminaries like Britney Spears, Katie Holmes, Demi Moore, Cameron Diaz, Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Aniston.

New movie

Jennifer broke the news that Monique was being tapped to design her wardrobe for her new movie with Kevin Costner.

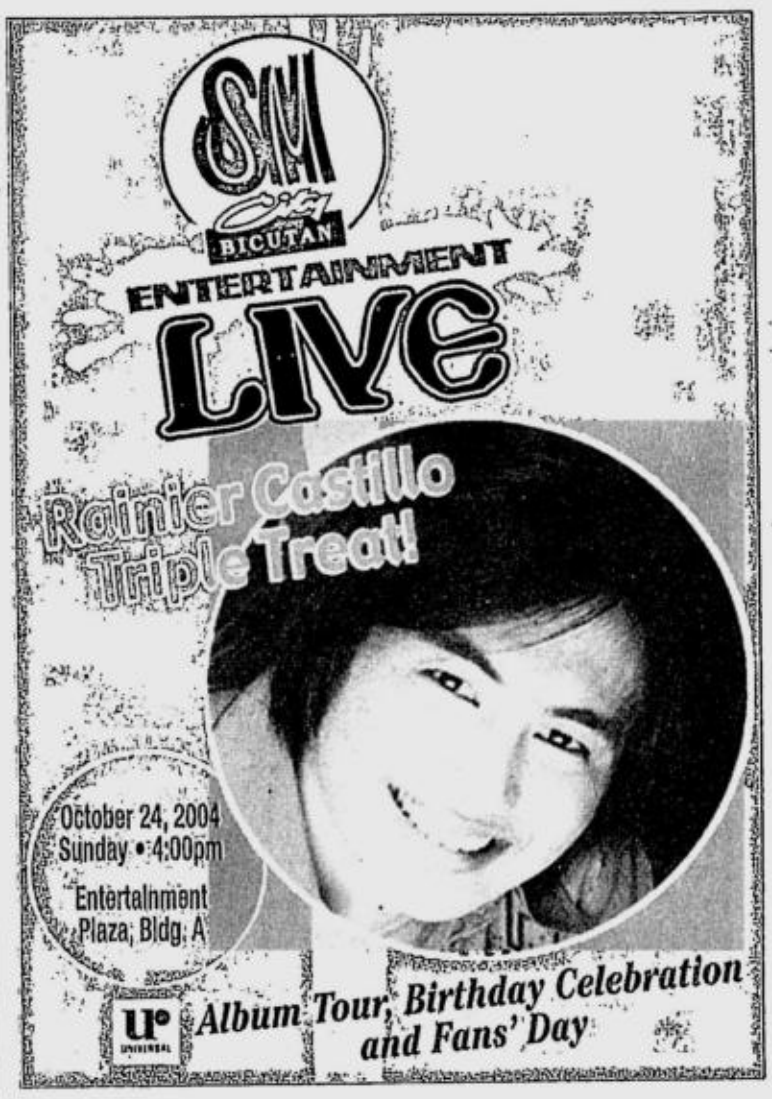
Monique Lhuillier is particularly in demand for her bridal gowns, many of which were shown being modeled during "ET's" extensive feature on the very upwardly mobile Fil-Am designer.

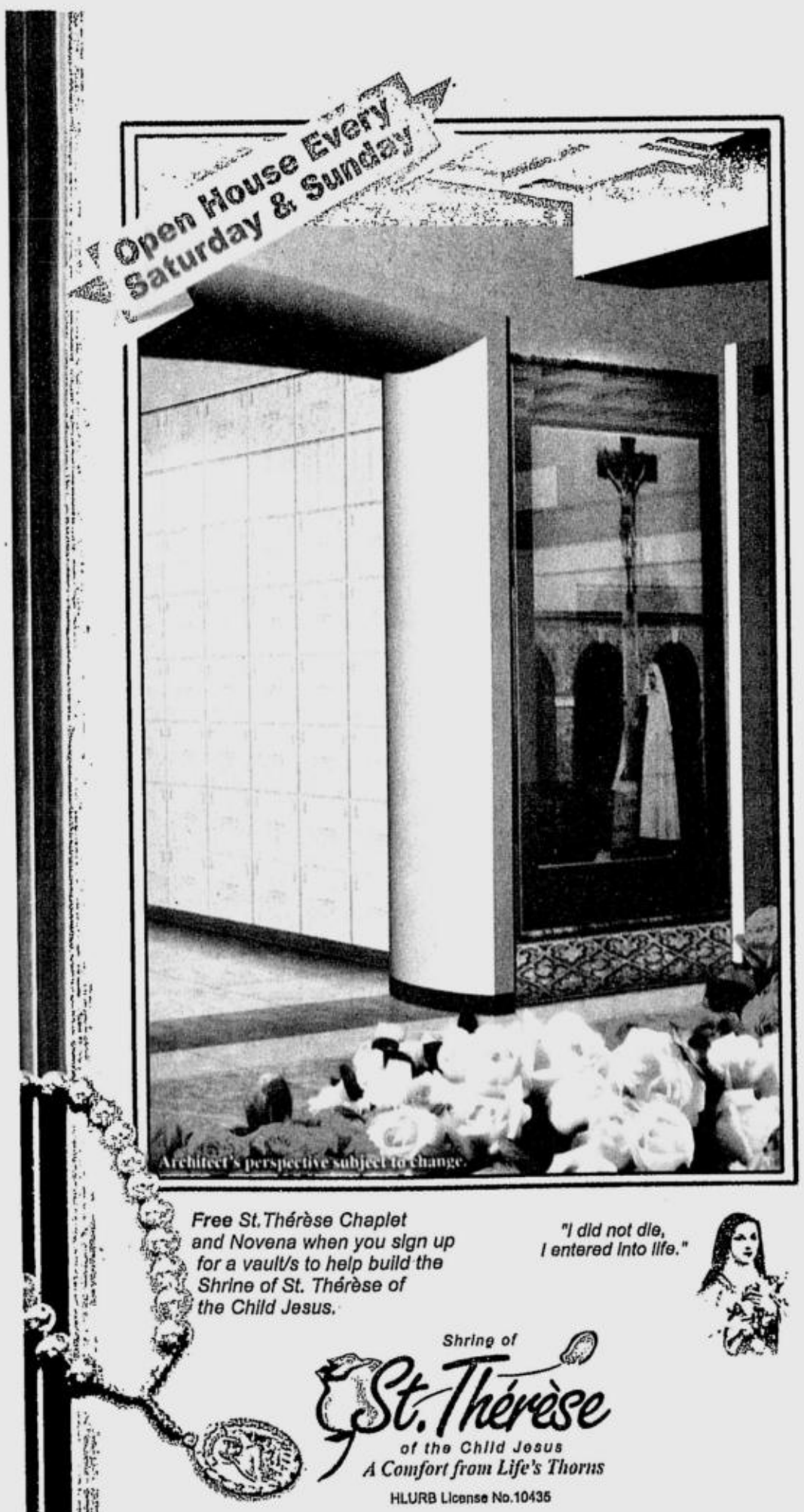
Their prices range from a "reasonable" $2,200 to a heady, glitzy, stunning $45,000—that's P2.5 million in Pinoy pesos, if you please.

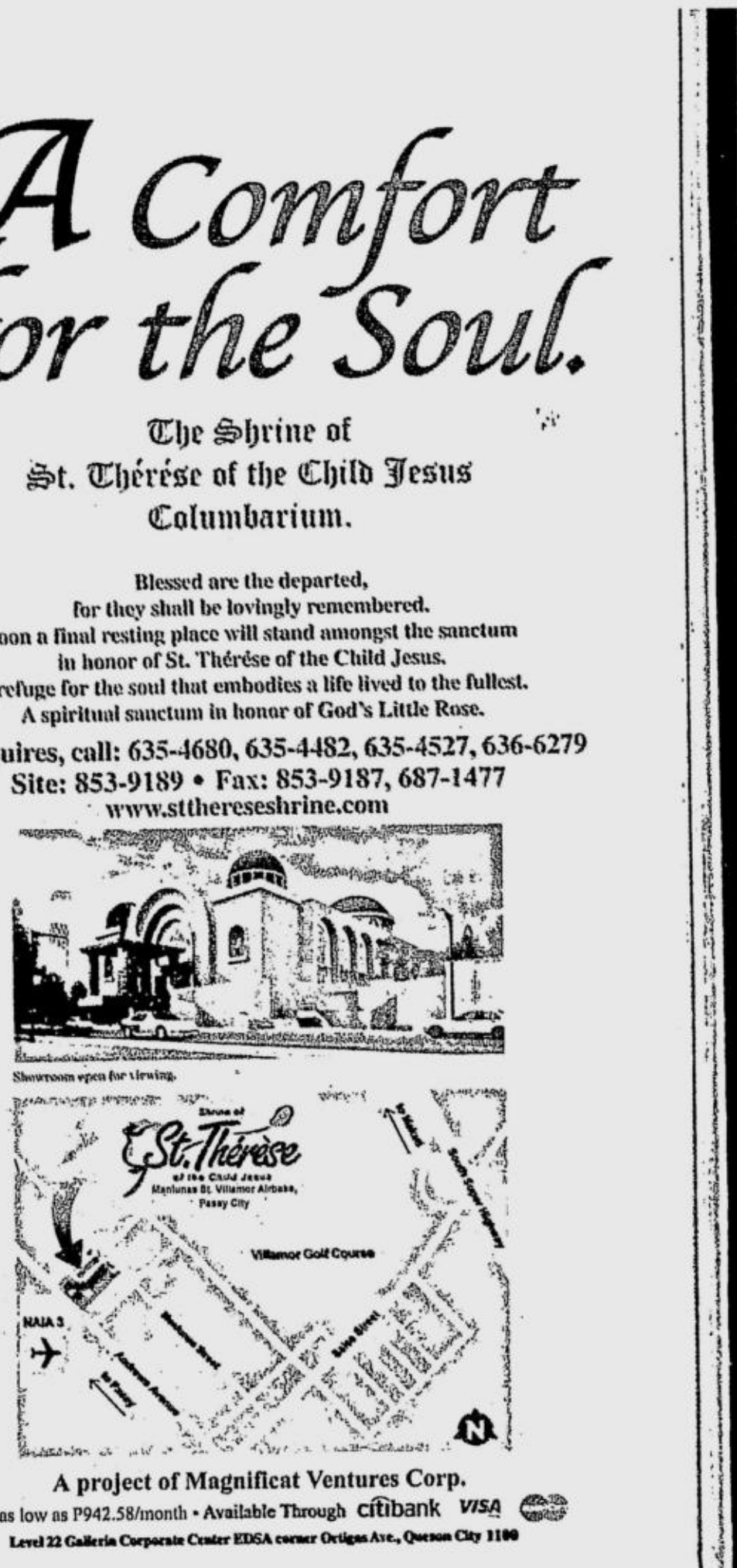
With all of the stellar attention that Monique is getting in Hollywood, her fashion star can only rise even higher in the next few years.

In due time, she could be right up there among the big designing divas and doyennes, keeping that other international Fil-Am designer, Josie Natori, fashionably perfect company.

REESE Witherspoon garbed in an opulently romantic Lhuillier creation.







JAMES. Most popular.

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The boys from Blue

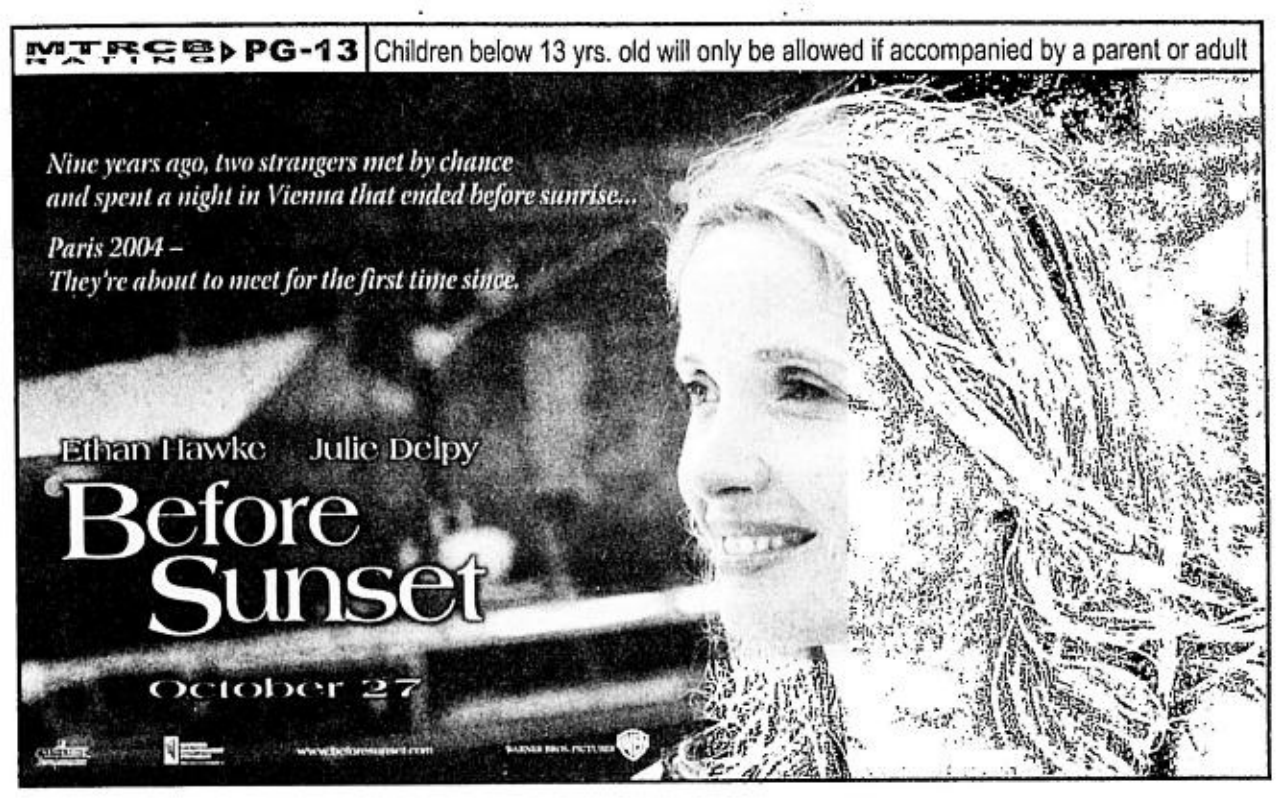
SHOW BIZ Q&A
Rito P. Asilo

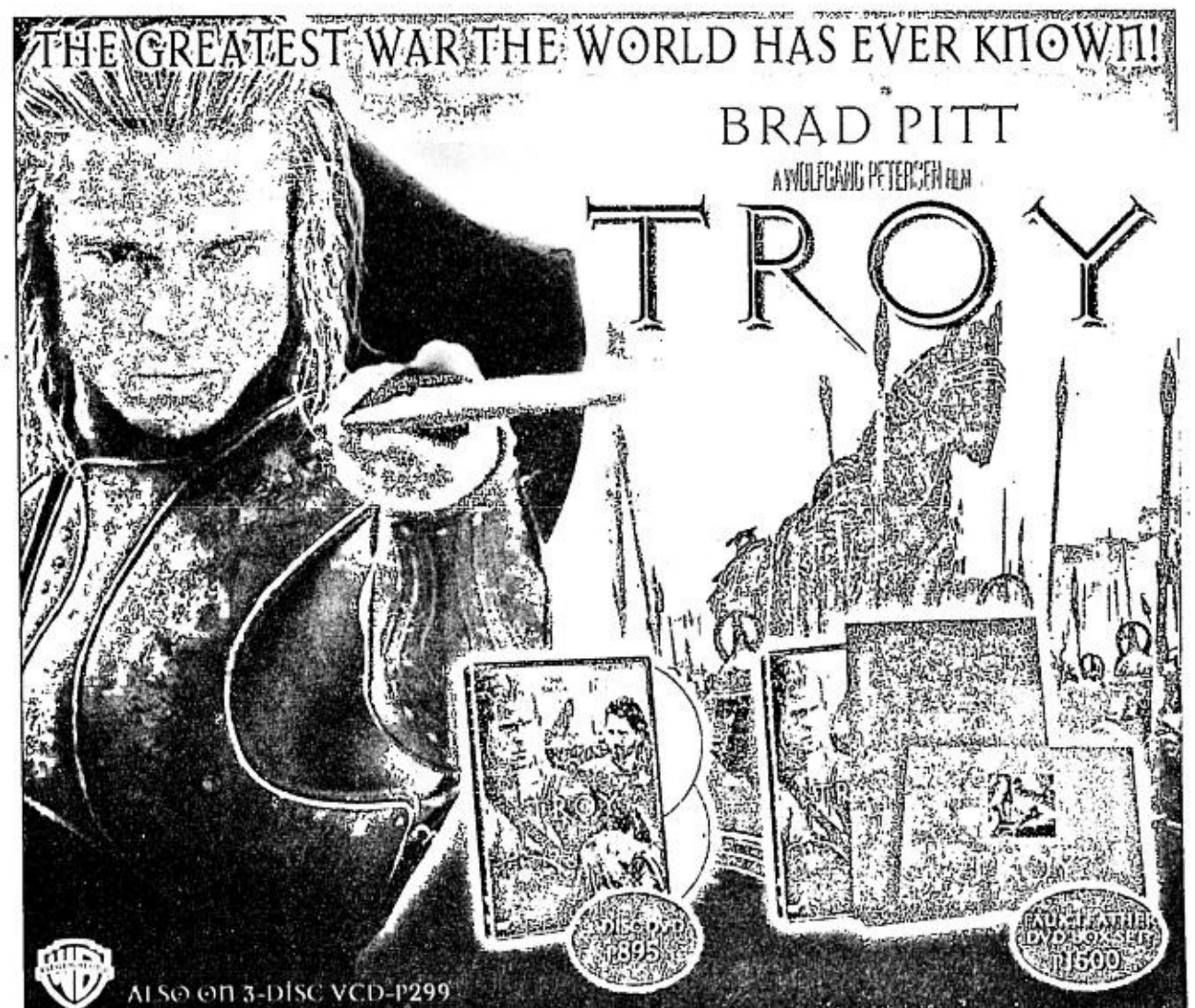
FROM Amy Hernandez: "I am a huge fan of the talented boy band, Blue, and I was thrilled when they visited the country recently. Please write about them."

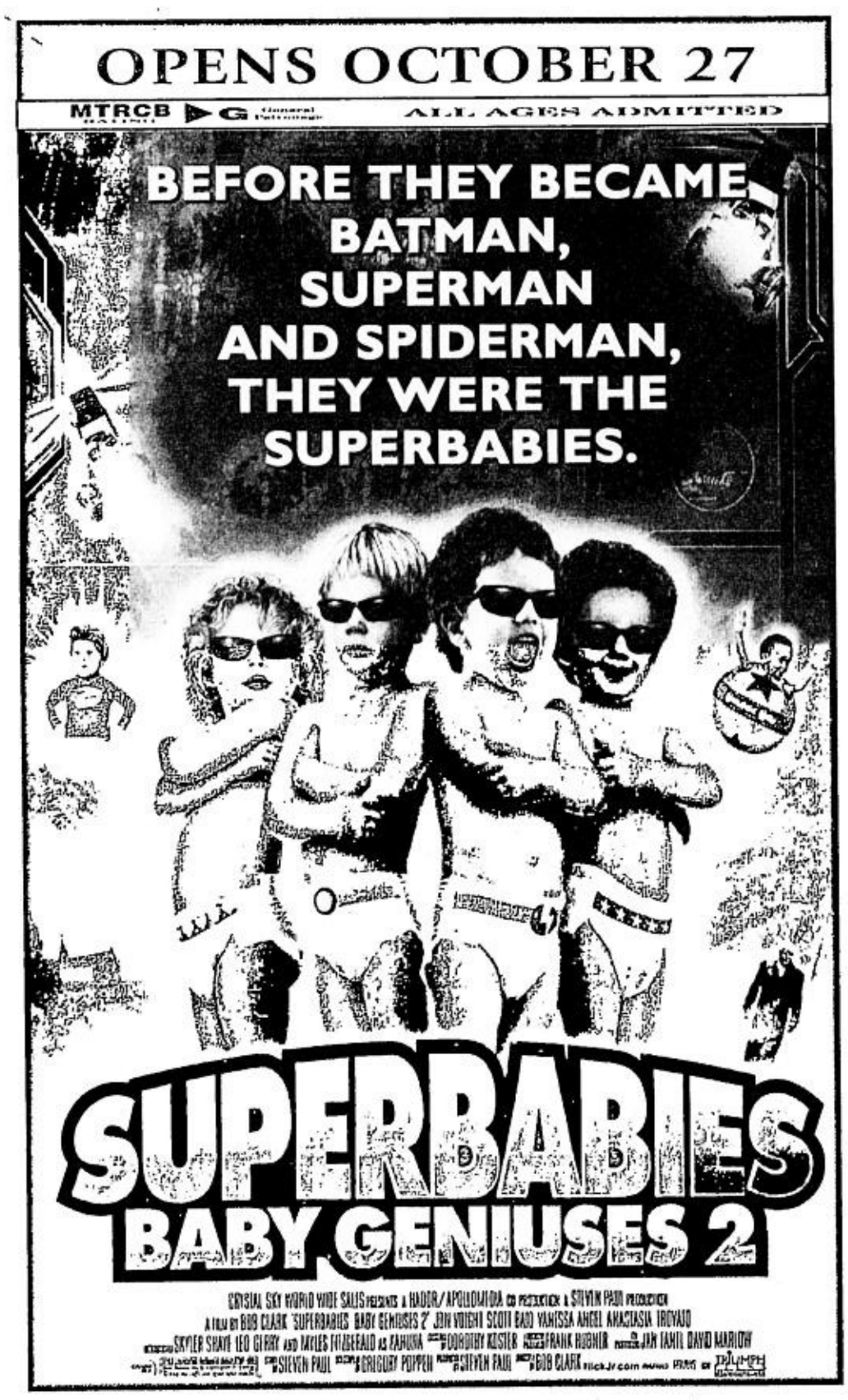
Gladly, Amy. Blue, the UK singing quartet who recently bagged the best pop group award at MTV Asia, is made up of Duncan James, Anthony Costa, Simon Webbe and Lee Ryan. It was Duncan and Anthony who conceptualized the group in early 2000. But, they didn't have to look far for other band members: Simon and Lee were housemates!

It didn't take long before they cut a deal with Virgin Records. Not long after, their

THE BOYS/ A4-3







Tribute to Christopher Reeve

THE HALLMARK Channel pays tribute to the late Christopher Reeve by screening his 1998 remake of Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller, "Rear Window," at 6 a.m. on Oct. 29.

MONTAGE

Reeve plays a wheelchair-bound architect who watches his neighbors from his apartment window. One day, he becomes convinced that a neighbor has been murdered. Directed by Jeff Bleckner, "Rear Window" also stars Daryl Hannah and Robert Forster.

REEVE'S starrer is a remake of Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller.

Little Spooks

Treats and surprises await the whole family at Masquerade Party with the Little Spooks 2004, at Dreamscape, Robinsons Galleria's popular indoor family amusement center. The Halloween bash will be held on Oct. 24 and is open to parents and their kids aged 12 years and below. Registration is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call. 636-2911.

Also, join the mall-wide Trick or Treat Parade and collect candies, toys and goodies. The excitement continues with a colorful costume contest for kids and parents in their best Halloween costumes. Awards are for Spookiest costume, Little Spooky Cute, Little Prince and Princess, and Spooky Family.

'Bowling for Columbine'

Written, produced and directed by Michael Moore ("Fahrenheit 9/11"), "Bowling for Columbine" will be shown at 11 p.m. on Oct. 24 on the AXN channel.

The documentary shows what propels two teenage students to pack a load of weapons to their high school and take down anyone they see in a violent bloodbath. Moore also takes a hard albeit satirical look at America's gun policies, and the culture of fear that contributed to the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999.

SIA's KrisWorld

Featured cinematic blockbusters showing this month on Singapore Airline flights include "Spider-Man 2," "The Terminal," "The Chronicles of Riddick," "The Notebook" and "Dodgeball." Also being screened on the airline's KrisWorld entertainment service are classical films, and Asian, European and Bollywood productions.

Other in-flight entertainment features include hit TV sitcoms, music, sports, lifestyle, travel, business and fashion shows, documentaries, CD albums, and video games. Call 810-4951.

'Strut'

Viewers in America can now watch a program with Filipino flavor, as ABS-CBN Global launches the new reality show, "Strut."

The show is a fun, energetic, and sometimes outrageous adventure tour in search of what's hot and what's not in today's trends and lifestyles. Its main host, model Nikki Cash, is a Filipina.

The show is the first salvo in ABS-CBN's initiative to give Asian-American youths a voice.

Fiesta Pilar

Every October, Zamboangueños gather to celebrate the feast of the La Virgen del Pilar, popularly known as Fiesta Pilar. This year, the La Hermandad Zamboangueña Foundation is inviting everyone to a night of dancing and fun at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23, at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Proceeds will support 26 bright but needy Christian and Muslim scholars. Call 561-8581 or 714-6648.

"SPOOKY" kids join Halloween Masquerade Party at Dreamscape.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Oct. 23 at 8:30 a.m., "Road to Redemption." Oct. 24 at 8:45 a.m., "Minority Report." Oct. 25 at 2:15 p.m., "The Man Who Saved Christmas." Oct. 26 at 10:30 p.m., "Carnivale," Ep.4, "Black Blizzard." Oct. 27 at 9 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Oct. 28 at 9 p.m., "About Schmidt." Oct. 29 at 12:45 p.m., "The Remains of the Day."

On Cinemax, Oct. 23 at 8:15 a.m., "Billy Madison." Oct. 24 at 10:35 p.m., "The Reality of Love." Oct. 25 at 9 p.m., "Born on the Fourth of July." Oct. 26 at 9:45 a.m., "Meeting Venus." Oct. 27 at 9 p.m., "Field of Dreams." Oct. 28 at 2 a.m., "Funny Girl." Oct. 29 at 12:15 p.m., "The Screaming Room: Dracula Goes to Hollywood."

Faith and love

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

FAITH is the foundation upon which love grows. It is like a trellis on which devotional love crawls and moves upward.

The development and fruiting of real love is possible in a genuine spiritual process. In other words, when one has the true seed of faith planted in his heart by the expert sower of seeds, the growth process begins.

Variety

If the seeds are of the wrong variety, the desired fruit cannot be obtained. If the seeds are not viable, no amount of watering can make them sprout.

In the early stages of spiritual practice, one does not yet fully experience love. One may have a glimpse or tiny taste of the real thing after a wonderful spiritual activity, but it is only like a flash of lightning in the sky.

Faith is thus important to keep us focused on the path of developing true devotional love for the Supreme and all others. Without this faith, one gives up, and allows himself to be carried away by materialistic life.

Faith means understanding in one's heart that he is loved unconditionally by the Supreme Lord and His representatives.

Faith allows one to rest his battered heart at God's feet and take shelter in Him. Faith makes one experience that he is not struggling alone. He knows that God is with him and that God loves him. This faith allows a humble person to face many difficulties.

When one has true faith, he also understands that the process will bear fruit in due time. He does not lose heart and get distracted from his goal, because he knows that if he simply follows, growth and maturity will result.

Happiness

He experiences complete faith that he will eventually taste true devotional love for the Supreme and His children. From this faith, love develops. And from love, happiness and peace manifest themselves.

Just as the growth of plants is a natural process, so is the development of love from complete faith!

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

The boys from Blue

From page A4-2

single, "All Rise," hit the top of the pop charts, followed by "Too Close" and "One Love," which featured performers from all over Asia, including our very own Kyla. Their collaboration with Elton John ("Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word") was a huge hit.

Three and a half years later, the group has amassed three No. 1 albums, 10 UK top 10 singles and two Brit Awards. To date, they have sold over seven million albums and four million singles!

Fun facts

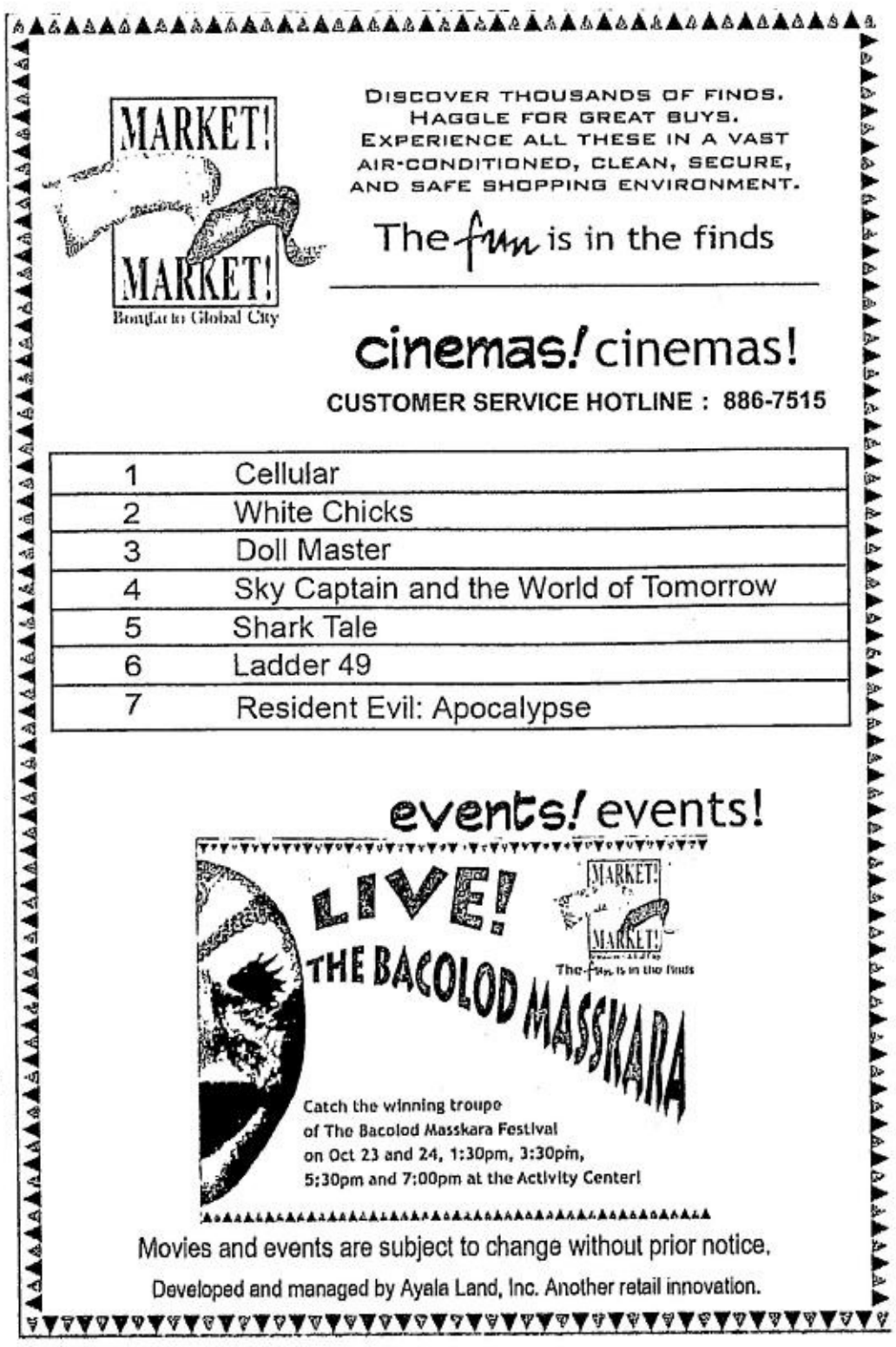
Some fun facts: Blond lead singer Lee's influences are Stevie Wonder and Boyz2Men. The 5'11" Gemini is, at 21, the group's youngest. He is also the band's most powerful singer. His impressive vocal performance in "If You Come Back" is a hard act to follow. His improvised singing at Blue's recent Araneta Coliseum concert had pop fans' heads shaking in disbelief. We're betting that he'll be the first to pursue a successful solo career.

The charming, blue-eyed Duncan, 25, 5'11", is the most popular—he knows how to work up a crowd. Dunk's favorite song is Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On." George Michael is tops on his list of performers. Recently, he released a duet, "I Believe My Heart," with classical artist Keedie—the song is a track from the new Andrew Lloyd Webber's West End musical, "Woman In White."

Anthony Costa, 23, considers his "mom's cooking" his favorite smell. The dark-haired looker loves pasta. His favorite performer: George Michael.

Simon Webbe, 25, likes hip-hop music, which explains why he's assigned the "soft" rapping portions of their songs. The 5'10", deep-voiced performer loves artists like Method Man, and considers "rice meals" a favorite.

What's their favorite color? Except for Dunk, who prefers red, the rest of the guys love—well, you guessed it—blue!



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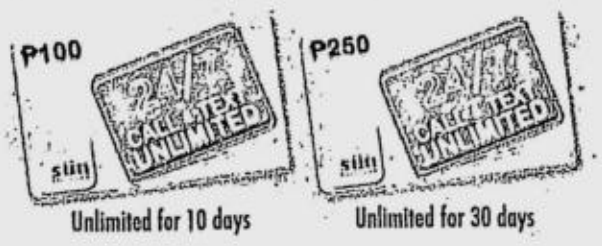

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BIR seeks to plug loophole in tax bill

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue wants the government's economic team to further refine its proposed bill on sin taxes, saying a loophole in the bill could again subject the revenue agency to tax refund claims.

According to Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr., instead of just seeking to increase the current tax rates of cigarettes and alcohol by 20 percent, the bill should specifically state the new tax rates in peso terms.

He explained that the vagueness of an earlier law implemented in 2000, which simply said that the tax rates of cigarettes should be increased by 12 percent and did not state the new tax rate in peso terms, was the reason cited by Fortune Tobacco Corp. in asking for tax refunds.

"If they would not do that, the ambiguity that happened in January 2000 may happen again. They better address this now because we do not want another instance when the BIR will be asked by the court to give a refund," Parayno told reporters in a briefing.

The Court of Appeals earlier ordered the BIR to refund about P1 billion in tax payments made by Fortune Tobacco in the previous years, saying the revenue agency was collecting taxes from the cigarette firm using a wrong tax rate. The BIR will file an appeal with the Supreme Court.

The argument between the BIR and Fortune Tobacco stemmed from the shift in the system of taxing "sin" products from ad valorem to specific in 1997. With the shift, Fortune Tobacco cigarette brands fell into classifications that imposed tax rates lower than the ones previously imposed on them under the ad valorem system.

For instance, the Salem brand was imposed a tax rate of P6.96 per pack under the ad valorem system. But wit the shift to specific, Salem fell under the classification of low-priced cigarette brands, which were imposed a tax rate of P5.60 per pack.

The BIR said that despite the fact that Salem fell under the classification of low-priced cigarettes, the tax rate imposed on it should not be P5.60 but should be retained at P6.96 because it was not the intention of the law for the government to collect lower taxes. The BIR said that the new tax rates should only be applied to cigarettes that will have their tax rates effectively increased, and that Fortune Tobacco cigarettes should have their tax rates retained at previous levels.

In 2000, the tax on cigarettes were raised by 12 percent. The BIR pegged the 12-percent increase to the higher tax rates. For instance, the BIR pegged it to the P6.96 tax on Salem, instead of the P5.60.

The BIR was collecting taxes from Fortune Tobacco based on the higher tax rates, but the cigarette firm, while paying what the BIR required of it, filed a complaint in court. The firm argued that it should be imposed a tax rate of only P5.96, and that the 12-percent increase in the rate should have been pegged at that rate. The CA then ruled in favor of Fortune, and ordered the BIR to give a refund.

The economic team—composed of the departments of finance, trade and industry, and

BIR/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.315 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2004

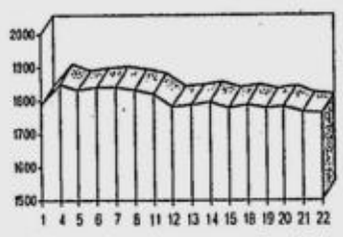
¥ 107.59 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2004

GOLD: $424.20-424.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 21, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.25% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.25 percent lower yesterday in thin trade after technical problems shut down trading for about an hour, dealers said.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Concerns that higher crude oil costs will hit consumer spending and curb corporate profits and economic growth, continued to weigh on sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 4.46 points to 1,762.14 after trading between 1,760.37 and 1,770.17.

Volume was 844.9 million shares worth P505.7 million after 697.09 million shares worth P724.79 million on Thursday.

The broader all-shares index fell 5.08 points to 1,105.63.

Losers led gainers 46 to 18, with 43 stocks unchanged.

"We were receiving a lot of orders prior to the market's opening but the computer glitch (at the exchange) was a major turn-off, causing them to cancel their orders," a dealer from a local brokerage firm said.

Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital said the absence of fresh positive news kept most investors on the sidelines, awaiting the release of third-quarter results for their next lead.

"Technically, the market has reached oversold levels and bargain-hunting will likely begin on Monday," Rodrigo said.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone was up P10 at P1,385.

Ayala Land fell 10 centavos to P6.90 while SM Prime Holdings slipped 10 centavos to P7.20.

AFP

Japanese firm pushes $100-M hospital project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry announced that it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Japan's biggest healthcare provider, setting in motion a plan to put up a $100-million hospital that would cater primarily to foreign patients.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said that MOU, signed last Oct. 15, provides that the proposed 1,000-bed medical facility be called Benigno Aquino Memorial Hospital.

Purisima said BAMH would make available quality medical care to local and foreign patients, particularly Japanese expatriates and retirees staying in the Philippines

He said Tokyo-based Tokushukai Medical Corp. was sending a team by the end of October to hasten the establishment of the hospital.

Tokushukai is the operator of Japan's biggest chain of hospitals, with 160 facilities including 47 hospitals. Each hospital has between 190 and 600 beds.

Last month, Purisima said the government was looking at establishing "medical zones" in the country following commitments from Japanese healthcare providers to set up hospitals and retirement facilities in the country.

Purisima had said another Japanese firm—Sanyo Emeritus Corp.—was looking at the possibility of building a retirement village in Tagaytay City considering its proximity to Metro Manila and its medical facilities.

He said investment commitments were a good start to promote the country as a preferred destination of outsourced medical services.

However, he added that the government needed to work with Congress on a law that would allow foreign doctors to practice in designated areas here in the country.

If a law were passed creating medical zones, Purisima said patients from overseas could enjoy care and services like those back in their home countries.

The official reiterated that it would be good for the country to develop the medical and retirement services sector considering the rapid aging of populations in developed countries, putting pressure on the cost of health services there.

"The country's medical professionals are world-class and capable of performing and delivering complicated medical treatment," the official said. "By supporting the development of the industry, the country can offer cheaper but world-class medical services to overseas patients from the United States, Europe and Japan."

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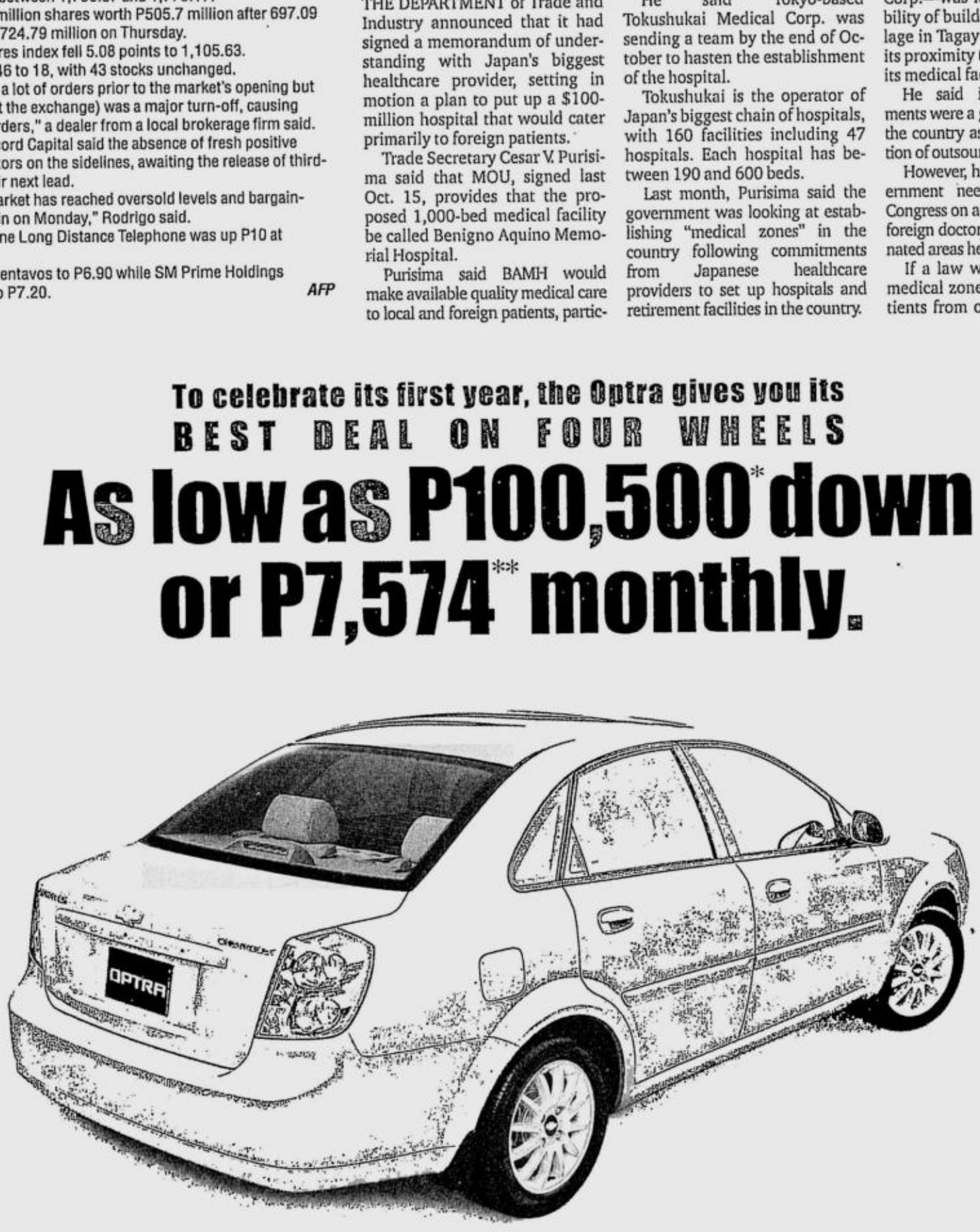

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1839 Series of 2004.

Chevrolet Optra 1.6 LS M/T

SRP	P670,000	MONTHS TO PAY					
%DP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
15%	100,500	49,067	33,601	26,672	19,159	15,412	13,208
20%	134,000	46,078	31,553	25,047	17,992	14,473	12,403
25%	167,500	43,089	29,505	23,423	16,825	13,535	11,599
30%	201,000	40,100	27,457	21,799	15,658	12,597	10,793
35%	234,500	37,108	25,409	20,175	14,491	11,658	9,988
40%	268,000	34,116	23,361	18,549	13,326	10,719	9,184
45%	301,500	31,126	21,314	16,925	12,158	9,781	8,378
50%	335,000	27,916	19,266	15,301	10,992	8,842	7,574

Chevrolet Optra 1.6 LS A/T

SRP	P710,000	MONTHS TO PAY					
%DP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
15%	106,500	52,102	35,677	28,319	20,343	16,365	14,025
20%	142,000	48,933	33,509	26,599	19,107	15,370	13,172
25%	177,500	45,768	31,338	24,877	17,870	14,375	12,319
30%	213,000	42,597	29,168	23,156	16,634	13,381	11,466
35%	248,500	39,427	26,998	21,435	15,397	12,386	10,613
40%	284,000	36,260	24,829	19,713	14,161	11,391	9,760
45%	319,500	33,092	22,658	17,992	12,924	10,397	8,907
50%	355,000	29,583	20,490	16,271	11,688	9,402	8,054

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- Free 6 Pollen Filters
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Customs view raw

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMEBODY big was missing from that horde of political and professional hangers-on who, just the other day, took their "oath of office" at Malacañang en masse.

"Oath of office," to us down here in my barangay, is another way of saying "oath of allegiance to this cute administration of Gloriaetta—with pay."

Missing from the new batch of appointees to the ever fattening bureaucracy of this cute administration was the tall, dark and, er, former policeman Reynaldo Berroya.

After his recent retirement from the police force, the burly mustachioed Berroya immediately became an assistant secretary at the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Word went around at that time that Berroya got a special assignment at the office of DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza, a former policeman himself.

Unfortunately, nobody knew what Berroya's special assignment was all about. And so this cute administration is transferring him to the Bureau of Customs.

***

WORD is out that Berroya, who is known to be close to somebody big in Malacañang, was already named chief of the customs police.

Such a position, from where I sit, looks way below that of assistant secretary in any department, not to mention the steep drop in the civil service salary grade.

After all, we are talking here about a much-experienced retired police general, made famous in media for his big-news falling-out with his longtime boss and compadre, the man named Band...Wrist Band.

As word spread around on Berroya's new appointment, or assignment, or mission, or whatever it is that he must do at the bureau, one of the customs deputy commissioners tendered his resignation—an irrevocable resignation, at that.

From what I gathered from the hangers-on in customs, the resigned official cited "health reason" in his goodbye letter.

Down here in our barangay, "health reason" is to resignation letters as "headache" is to evasion tactics of married couples on the bed at night.

***

OF COURSE, the view of everybody in customs, including the wall, ceiling and floor, is that the bureau got a raw deal in the Berroya appointment.

That irrevocable resignation must have something to do, one way or another, with Berroya's appointment.

You see, Berroya's new position as customs police chief is immediately under the resigned deputy commissioner.

And so in the bureau, speculation is rife on why Berroya, despite his stature, accepted an appointment to such a lowly position as customs police chief.

One version says that his new position may only be, in the billiards lingo, a "preparation." Perhaps he is being groomed for something higher.

The other day, included in the mass swearing-in at Malacañang was George Jereos as the new customs commissioner.

He replaced Antonio Bernardo, who was supposed to become the next SEC chair, but apparently not.

Anyway, Jereos is a career guy, homegrown at the bureau. He is retiring in a few months, sometime in February next year.

Who will take his place? The career guys in customs think they know. And it's not one of them.

***

BY THE WAY, under Bernardo and then under Jereos, the customs bureau showed a consistent increase in collection. The bureau did fairly well, at least alongside the targets set by this cute administration.

As of last month, for instance, the actual collection was better than the target by almost P8 billion.

Only a slight drop in collection was posted at the Manila port last month.

Even then, total collection from January to September at the Manila port was still better than the target by close to P2 billion.

The customs head at the Manila port is a young idealistic lawyer named Ronnie Silvestre, who lives in a small townhouse in Quezon City.

Silvestre said that he was actually surprised that importation was a bit slow last month. This was unusual.

By September, normally, Christmas imports would start to arrive at the Manila port. This time, Silvestre noticed a slowdown in the shipment of Christmas goods.

For instance, in a meeting between customs officials and fruit importers, the bureau found out that the fruit importers still had a lot of stock from last August's shipment.

What now—let's postpone Christmas?

***

MOST smuggled items, of course, are liquor and cigarette. That's probably why Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez came up with a bright idea.

Let us, according to Suarez, limit the duty-free importation of liquor and cigarette to the state-owned Duty Free Philippines, or DFP, now headed by Michael Kho, who was one of the guys of Sen. Richard Gordon at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Suarez already filed a bill in Congress to such an effect. He said it could stop smuggling of liquor and cigarette. Really now!

Perhaps the good congressman does not know that the DFP no longer owns the liquor and cigarette business in its own store in Parañaque.

The business has been given to a Chinese-Filipino concessionaire—actually, a monopoly concessionaire—during the time of Benjie Lim as DFP general manager, who is now the mayor of Dagupan City in Pangasinan.

Still, Suarez wants a safeguard against smuggling of duty-free goods from out of the DFP.

He wants to limit DFP's duty-free importation of liquor and cigarette.

Under his proposal, the yearly limit should be based on the estimated number of travelers. You know—*balikbayans*, OFWs and tourists.

Each traveler, anyway, is limited to a certain quantity of liquor and cigarette purchase.

Question: Does each and every traveler use up the limit? Next question: What happens to the rest of the allocation which the travelers do not use up? Final question: Shall we call it legitimate smuggling, or what?

MPC to lend P127M to troubled Nenaco

HOLDING firm Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC) said it would lend another P127 million to its troubled subsidiary Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco), bringing its total financial assistance to P250 million.

Nenaco needed P250 million to pay its tax liabilities, fund docking costs of two vessels this year and repair one of its ships, the M/V St. Ezekiel Moreno.

A source said MPC's assistance would come from the P450 million raised by its parent firm, First Pacific Co., from the sale of its 5-percent stake in MPC.

FPC's 5 percent was equivalent to 930.2 million shares, out of MPC's 18.6 billion outstanding shares.

The source said the funding agreement was yet to be finalized, but MPC was counting on FPC's commitment to help it nurse its troubled subsidiary back to health.

FPC said earlier that it planned to use the proceeds raised from the sale to fund the general corporate requirements of MPC.

This will include "certain funding support needed to implement the rehabilitation plan of Nenaco."

The additional cash would also help MPC pursue its tollways project.

As of March, Nenaco has P2.5 billion in liabilities, of which P948 million were unsecured loans, while P857.9 million was covered by collateral.

The Manila Regional Trial Court recently approved Nenaco's 10-year rehabilitation program.

MPC was also in the process of buying out minority shareholders of Nenaco, representing 2.8 percent of the company. Its tender offer started last Oct. 20 and will finish by Nov. 17.

MPC owns 97.2 percent of Nenaco.

Nenaco was listed on the PSE last June 1994.

It traced its financial troubles to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, that increased the cost of servicing its dollar-denominated loans. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

$4.65 MILLION

Filinvest sells Hocheng stake

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST Development Corp., the holding company of the Gotianun group, has sold its 13.73 percent stake in manufacturing firm Hocheng Philippines Corp. to its Taiwanese partner.

FDC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it recently concluded share purchase agreements with Ritiboon International Ltd., majority owner of Hocheng Philippines.

FDC expected to complete the sale next week.

FDC sold its 13.73 percent stake in the manufacturing firm for $4.65 million.

Hocheng is engaged in the manufacturing and sale of sanitary wares and bathroom fixtures.

Part of Hocheng's production is exported to other countries in Asia, Middle East and the United States.

In a separate deal, FDC agreed to sell its 17.21 million shares or 60 percent in Hocheng Philippines Property Holdings (HPPH) for $1.8 million to a local real estate firm.

HPPH owns a piece of property in Cavite where the Hocheng Philippines' factory is located.

The sale of its stake in the property and manufacturing firms would allow FDC to concentrate on its core business of property development and banking, sources said in an interview.

FDC likewise intended to use part of the proceeds to finance working capital requirements.

FDC has engaged in real estate development since 1967 through property arm Filinvest Land Inc.

FDC has interests in residential property development, commercial property development, banking and financial services, through East West Bank, and information technology.

DENR offers incentives to firms investing in anti-pollution devices

By Christine A. Gaylican

SCORE another one for the drive against air pollution.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has recently issued guidelines granting generous incentives to companies that will invest in anti-air pollution devices.

According to the DENR guidelines, companies or cooperatives may deduct from their gross income a reasonable depreciation allowance for the wear and tear of air pollution control devices.

They may also invest in research and development of mechanisms and techniques to control their air emission, and avail themselves of tax credits on the purchase air pollution control devices.

The guidelines (Administrative Order 2004-53) likewise exempt companies from paying real property tax on machinery and equipment used for air pollution control and environmental protection.

Tax incentives on these devices can also be availed of by companies operating inside special economic and freeport zones.

The applicant must secure a permit to operate anti-air pollution devices from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), which shall serve as proof of eligibility for the tax incentives.

DENR is hard pressed to solve the worsening air pollution in Metro Manila. PDI PHOTO

Qualified enterprises may avail themselves of tax incentives provided for under existing laws, subject to the rules and regulations of concerned incentives-administering agencies.

These include the Board of Investments of the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Department of Finance and its concerned bureaus, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp.

To discourage companies from abusing these incentives, the EMB will conduct technical inspections and sampling tests to verify if the air pollution control device was properly installed and operating according to environmental regulations.

DENR Secretary Michael T. Defensor said, "establishments installing air pollution control devices will greatly benefit from these tax incentives as they help the government in its campaign to clean the air."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 22, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	103,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	102,200
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	1,790
Citystate Savings Bank	16	16	16	16	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	117,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	780,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27.5	42,600
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	10,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	16,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2470	2470	2460	2460	30
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	579,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	113	113	110	110	1,100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1645	1645	1645	1645	2,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	4,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.2	1.24	29,617,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1030	1020	1020	4,710
Ipeople Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	26,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.34	2.36	4,590,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1385	1390	1380	1385	86,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,330,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	69,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16	15.75	15.75	30,100
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	122,300
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	2,393,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	120,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	180,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	950,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.25	2.3	1,006,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	75,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28	28	28	286,700
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	56.5	6,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.5	135,000
Universal Robina Corp.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	27,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	3,506,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	301,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	18,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	17,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.57	5,940,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3.05	2.85	2.9	15,894,000
Ever-Golesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,300,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	140,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	6,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.6	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.98	1.96	1.92	1.98	938,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	2,788,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.37	0.3	0.3	530,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.4	111,100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	35,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	10,100
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	190,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	2,300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	3,000,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.75	0.75	3,390,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	70,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	730,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	133,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	23,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	6.9	10,478,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	237,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	7,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	510,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	10,460,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	7,843,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	480,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	6,226,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	240,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4	4.1	3.75	3.85	1,074,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	46,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	10,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	295,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	36,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	75,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	28,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	53,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	3,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,807,900	19,924,110.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	297,754,800	343,411,805.00
PRO	44,789,000	133,687,890.00
Mining	356,934,000	7,471,450.00
OIL	143,553,000	1,069,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	844,838,700	505,564,555.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	491.78	DOWN 0.98
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,775.96	DOWN 0.95
PRO	649.16	DOWN 9.60
Mining	2,018.70	DOWN 15.42
OIL	1.71	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,105.63	DOWN 5.08
Composite	1,762.14	DOWN 4.46

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18, NO. OF DECLINES: 46, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 107, NO. OF TRADES: 2,330

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Realty & Holdings Corp. denied having any information to explain the 50-percent increase in its share price to P0.03 each.

***

A.SORIANO Corp.'s 191,000 shares were bought by its wholly owned subsidiary Anscor Consolidated Corp.

***

SECURITY Bank Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.30 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Nov. 5 and will be payable on Dec. 2.

***

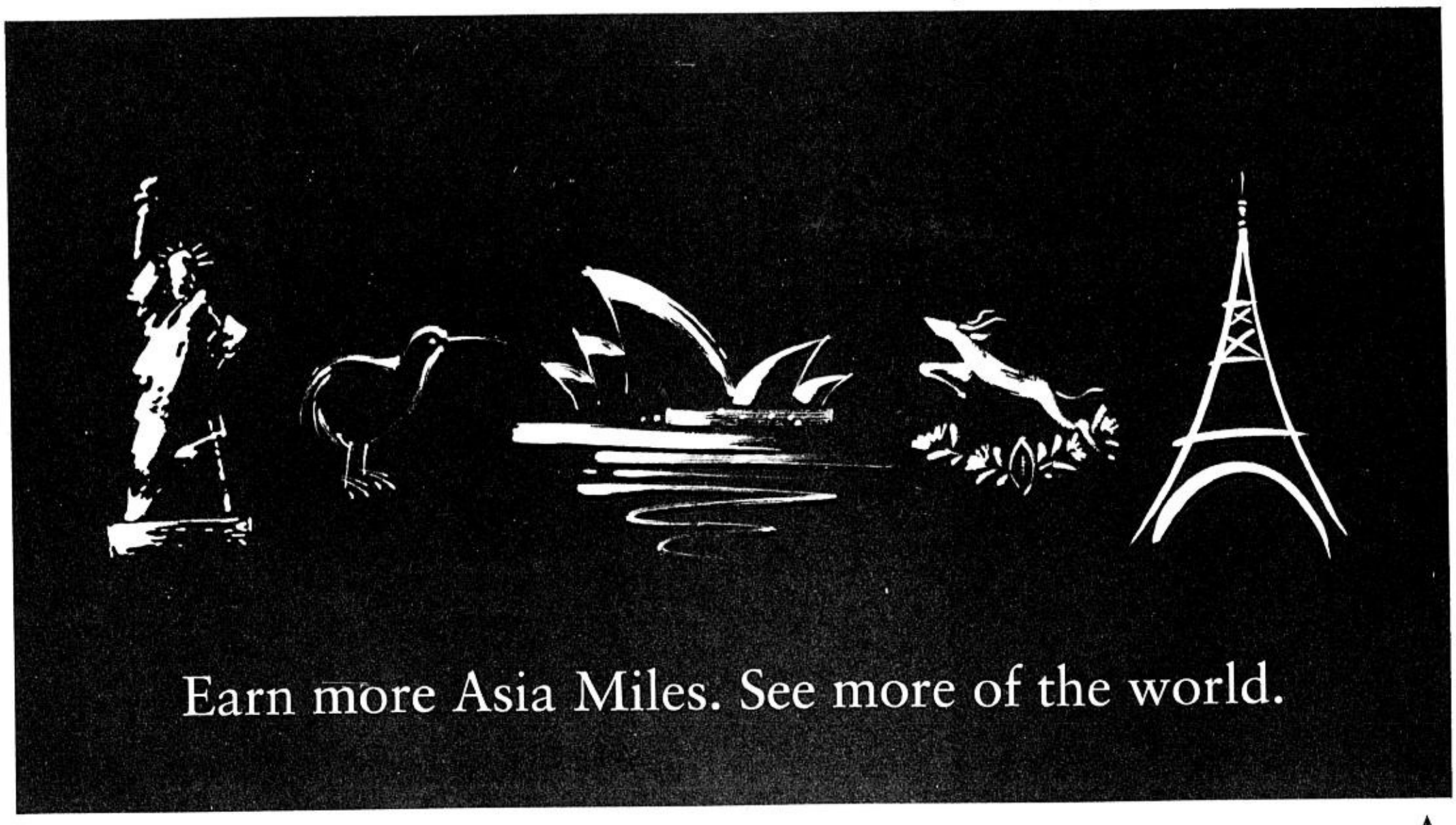
FILINVEST Development Corp. agreed to sell all its 100 million shares in Hocheng Philippines Corp. and its 17.2 million common shares in Hocheng Philippines Property Holding Inc. to Ritiboon International Limited.

***

AYALA Land Inc. will hold an analysts' briefing on Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m. at the 25/F of Tower One, Ayala Triangle; Makati City. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 22, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792519	1.000000	56.2950
Japan	Yen	0.007375	0.009306	0.5239
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448962	1.828300	102.9241
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101792	0.128441	7.2306
Switzerland	Franc	0.651153	0.821625	46.2534
Canada	Dollar	0.637842	0.804829	45.3078
Singapore	Dollar	0.473768	0.597800	33.6532
Australia	Dollar	0.585057	0.738225	41.5584
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.102227	2.652590	149.3276
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211333	0.266660	15.0116
Brunei	Dollar	0.472356	0.596019	33.5529
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019184	0.024207	1.3627
UAE	Dirham	0.215774	0.272264	15.3271
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.261800	71.0330
Argentina	Peso	0.268195	0.338409	19.0507
Brazil	Real	0.278272	0.351124	19.7665
Denmark	Kroner	0.134505	0.169719	9.5543
India	Rupee	0.017338	0.021877	1.2316
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208585	0.263193	14.8164
Mexico	New Peso	0.069246	0.087374	4.9187
New Zealand	Dollar	0.550017	0.694011	39.0693
South Africa	Rand	0.127257	0.160573	9.0395
Korea	Won	0.000695	0.000877	0.0494
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023461	0.029603	1.6665



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2079, Series of 2004

Prudentialife and Gawad Kalinga

Transforming slums and ... into love and the good life

Hundreds of poor Filipinos in Baseco, Tondo, Manila will no longer have to live in slums and ... Prudentialife, the first and only pre-need company to tie up with Gawad Kalinga, has envisioned to turn these slum ... into shelters of love and the good life with the ... the Prudentialife Village of 50 homes in Baseco.

Today, the realization of this vision ... for 50 more families in Baseco ... Prudentialife employees ... found time to help ... Prudentialife Village ... breaking ceremony ...

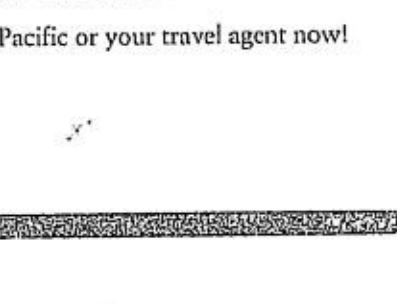
Prudentialife GOLD ... company ... Kapamilya ... Prudentialife employees ... volunteers worked together to ... funds put in the actual building of homes through the company's Gift Of Life Drive or GOLD campaign, aptly symbolized by ... Gift is the center of Prudentialife's ... this to make the Prudentialife Village ... reality. It is part of the Gawad Kalinga ... project which aims to build 200,000 ... homes in 7,000 communities in ... year.

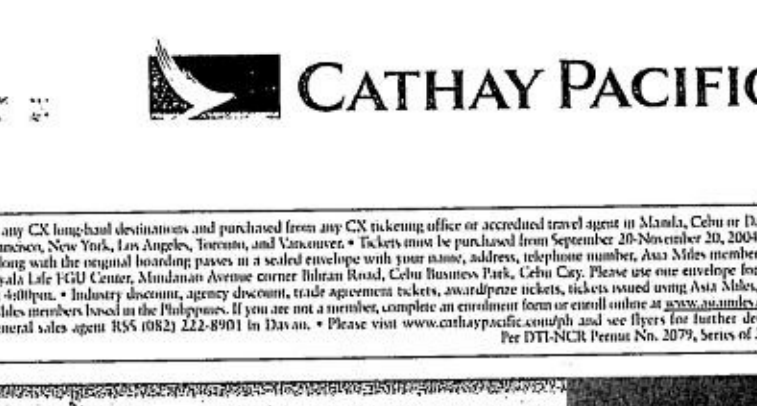
Prudentialife Foundation, Inc. ... years, Prudentialife through its Prudentialife Foundation, Inc. has worked hand in hand with various institutions ... reaching out to less privileged sectors of ... society. This is Prudentialife's way of sharing its blessings with others. This year, Prudentialife has chosen to share its blessings with Gawad Kalinga.

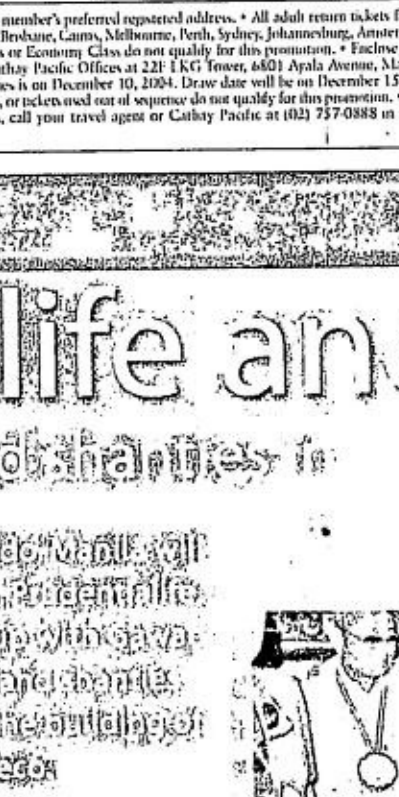
Prudentialife Chairman Amb. Francisco A. Alba said that the goal is to help more poor people as possible. It's not only to build homes but to build a community and to enable families to become more productive members of society.

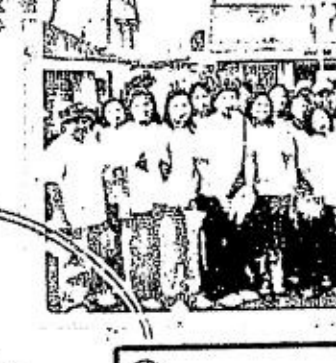
"... as many poor people as possible. It's not only ... to build a responsible and productive community."

AMB. FRANCISCO A. ALBA
Prudentialife Chairman









Prudentialife GAWAD KALINGA

GOLD
Gift Of Life Drive

HELP BUILD HOMES FOR FAMILIES OF BASECO

Prudentialife
Prudentialife Building, 116 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Prudentialife Direct: 864-8000. Text Hotlines: 0917.8197574, 0918.9797574
E-mail: helpdesk@prudentialife.com. Website: www.prudentialife.com

GAWAD KALINGA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

People, Events & Products

Star Wars mania with G-Flex and Sony Ericsson

GLOBE'S G-Flex Plans and Sony Ericsson present the exciting thrills of Star Wars!

From now until Nov. 14, Star Wars fans can get in on the intergalactic action of George Lucas' classic sci-fi adventure whenever they get the sleek new Sony Ericsson K500i free with a G-Flex Plan 2500, which also lets them be one of the first owners of a free Special Limited Edition DVD of the Star Wars Trilogy.

This is one of the most requested DVDs today and is considered a collector's must-have by Star Wars fans. "We know fans all around the world have been looking forward to this release, so we at Globe wanted to make this incredible experience possible for Star Wars fans here," said Butch Reyes, head of post-paid acquisition. The four-disc Limited Edition DVDs include Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope, Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back and Episode VI: Return of the Jedi and a disc filled with all-new special features, including a comprehensive documentary about the Star Wars saga. This also includes never-before-seen footage from the making of all three films, which have been digitally restored and re-mastered by THX for superior sound and picture quality. This awesome collection will be given free to new Globe Plan subscribers who apply for the G-Flex Plan with a Sony Ericsson K500i.

GET the 'Force' with Sony Ericsson K500i, free with a G-Flex Plan 2500

This limited offer from Globe has more for die-hard Star Wars fans: when they get other Sony Ericsson phones like the K700i, T610, T230, and the P910i, all free with a G-Flex Plan, they can download an unlimited number of Star Wars MMS contents from myGlobe for free! New G-Flex Plan subscribers can jazz up their new Sony Ericsson phones with photos of their favorite swashbuckling Star Wars characters such as Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Han Solo, Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker, or download the famous Star Wars theme music as their ringtone.

With exciting, exclusive offers like this, it's no wonder more people choose Globe G-Plans and G-Flex Plans, over any other postpaid plans. Get a Sony Ericsson K500i free with a G-Flex Plan 2500 now and live the adventure of Star Wars!

SOLD OUT HOLDS ASIAN TOUR

After yesterday's performance by Sold Out at Byke's Cafe Makati, the band departs for a two week Asian Tour of major cities in Southeast Asia to continue reaching out for God's Glory. The band is composed of (shown in photo, front row, from left): Boy Katigbak, Lionel Valdellon; (back row, from left) Jun Viray, Jazz Almonacid, Bernard Reyes, Tony Diaz, Charlie Ysmael, Pompoy Dinglasan, Vince Reyes and Bambi Urgino. Sold Out is an acronym for Servants of the Lord going Out (to the whole world to make disciples of all nations). All of the gentlemen are active members of the Community of Couples for Christ (CFC).

AHMC accepts Bumrungrad as new major investor

DR. JORGE M. Garcia, founding chair of Asian Hospital Inc, recently announced that in a meeting held last Oct. 8, the stockholders of the hospital unanimously approved the offer of Bumrungrad Public Company, Ltd. to acquire a major stake in the institution. Dr. Garcia said that Bumrungrad International, the international division of the Bangkok-based Bumrungrad Group has offered to purchase 40 percent of Asian Hospital stock and assume management of the two-year old facility.

Bumrungrad Hospital International (BHI), which will be awarded a long-term management contract as part of the deal, presently manages two other facilities in the Asian region, in addition to Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok, which is Southeast Asia's largest private hospital providing world-class care every year to one million patients from over 140 countries. Bumrungrad was the first hospital in Asia to be awarded the prestigious Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA) from the United States. They also pioneered medical tourism in the region.

Dr. Garcia said that he, the Board of Directors and the shareholders of Asian Hospital were pleased to welcome Bumrungrad to the Philippines. He added, "I think of no better choice to help the Asian Hospital and Medical Center reach its full potential as a major referral facility for the Philippines and the region. Our excellent physicians and wonderful facilities are now joined by Bumrungrad's established international management expertise. It's a winning combination."

For his part, Chai Sophonpanich, Bumrungrad's chair, stated, "Asian Hospital is an outstanding institution and Bumrungrad is proud to be part of its very exciting future. This investment is part of Bumrungrad's strategy to replicate its successful business model in Thailand through the management and acquisition of top hospitals in the region. Asian Hospital (AHI) is obvious choice in the Philippines."

Opened in 2002, Asian Hospital was the first major private hospital built in the Greater Manila area in over twenty-five years. It is a modern, well-equipped facility with over 500 physicians on staff, many of whom hold clinic in a 145-suite Medical Office Building adjacent to the hospital. Asian Hospital has a particularly strong reputation in cardiac care and surgery, attracting patients from throughout the Philippines and the region.

A mystical Halloween at the SM Malls

MAKE it a magical Halloween this year at the SM Supermalls! Cast that scintillating spell with the Winx fairies - Bloom, Stella, Flora, Musa and Techna. The Winx bring to life an entire fairytale world of exciting adventures, enduring friendship, and character molding experiences featuring love, fashion and music. They never fail to dazzle, astonish and bewilder generations of children. In a world where good and evil forces battle constantly, the Winx are a group of fantastically fashionable teen friends that magically transform into fairies to stop senior witches from creating chaos in the universe. The fairies will do anything to stop evil watches who use black magic to gain control of the universe.

THE WINX haven.

Here's a rundown of the fairy friends. Bloom, the Fairy of the Wind, uses fire and pyro to defeat evil. The most passionate of the Winx set, she loves everything connected with the magical world. Stella, the Fairy of the Sun and the Moon, shocks opponents through electric attacks. Beauty is Stella's thing, and she likes love spells and the latest fashion. Flora, the Fairy of Nature, uses her magical power to help all the plants and flowers of the Magic. In turn, they make the energy of this mature and responsible fairy blossom. Music, on the other hand, greatly affects the mood of Musa, the Fairy of Melody. Creative and full of ideas, she is known for being observant and good at investigation. Techna, the Fairy of Technology, likes science and inventions. She has been described as determined, a perfectionist and wise. The Winx collection is available at all Toy Kingdom stores at the SM Malls.

As we celebrate Halloween, kids will have the chance to meet the five Winx fairies and have a photo op with them. Have the picture perfect moment at Ghouls Away on Oct. 31, at 4 p.m. by just presenting your P300 purchase receipt from any of the SM Mall tenants.

Also not to be missed is the Fashion Show, which showcases the fairies in their costumes, and the Winx Club Show, which include a video featuring their adventures as they defend the universe from the wicked witches. These are scheduled on Oct. 24 at SM City Fairview and SM City Dasmariñas, and Oct. 30 at SM City Bacoor and SM City North-Edsa.

Celebrate a mystical Halloween with the Winx at the SM Supermalls.

AVON INKS SUPPORT OF MS EARTH 2004

Global beauty company Avon recently inked a partnership with Carousel Productions in bringing Ms Earth 2004. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left): Carousel Productions EVP Lorraine Schuck; Avon Group marketing communications manager Alice Orleans; Avon HR director Glecy Bagasin; and Carousel Productions president Ramon Monzon. Also present during the event were the Ms Philippines 2004 candidates along with reigning Ms Earth titlists led by Ms Earth 2003 Dania Prince of Honduras. Aside from promoting environmental awareness, Ms Earth 2004 also holds the distinction of being the only Filipino produced international beauty pageant. Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $6.8 billion in annual revenues. More information about Avon and its products can be found on the company's website www.avoncompany.com.

The Sony We Got Ya! Roadshow

SONY Handycam and Cyber-shot We Got Ya! Roadshow has all-original activities lined up for each member of the family. Starting early September, Sony went to Shangri-la Mall, Megamall, Festival Supermall, and Eastwood City to cater to various people's tastes and preferences in video and still cameras. With a full schedule of mall and bar tours hitting the town until the end of the year, the mood is definitely set for fun and excitement!

All one has to do is register to have a free access to fun-filled activities such as creating one's own music video in the Pop Idol Studio, having a dream photo taken in Seaside Fantasy, take videos as kids and young-at-heart play in the Gigantic Toyland, and letting the kids star in their own videos as they frolic in the Children's Playpen. Aside from the booth area, amusement parks within malls encourage families and friends to "choose their own adventure." The Game Park Challenge puts family unity to the test as one weaves through the theme park to accomplish given tasks. Of course, all precious moments will be frozen in time using both Handycam and Cyber-shot.

Fun does not stop after mall hours! Cyber-shot takes center stage in bars around the metro. Cyber-shot We Got Ya! invades restaurants to make everyone experience the ease and comfort of using Cyber-shot. These hotspots hype to the highest level as Cyber-shot Pals gather around tables and take photos. The best part of it all? A photo print-out with picture frame can be claimed for free at the booth area. And, by clicking the Sony We Got Ya! logo at the official Sony Philippines website (www.sony.com.ph), one can view all the pictures and automatically share to friends and loved ones by downloading it. But, if you are lucky enough, you can be chosen as the Cyber-shot We Got Ya! face who automatically wins more Sony freebies and a chance to be featured in the Lifestyle by Sony magazine.

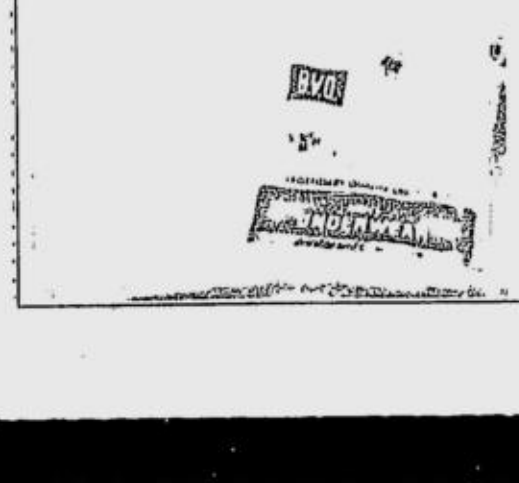
Because gone is the philosophy that life's precious moments are limited to that once-a-year summer family outings, Sony has created an event to suit each one's excitement. With the developed technologies of Mega Pixel Engine for Handycam and Real Imaging Processor for Cyber-shot, bundled with the power and expertise of Carl Zeiss lens, Sony allows us to capture images as close to real life as possible. Catch the thrills and spills in these upcoming We Got Ya! schedules: Oct. 16 to 17 - Robinson's Manila (Orosa Atrium, ground floor); Oct. 22 to 23 - SM North Edsa (Entertainment Plaza, basement level); Nov. 5 - The Fort (Fort Plaza, in front of Pier One); Nov. 19 to 21 - SM Cebu (Main entrance, upper ground floor); Dec. 4 to 5 - Enchanted Kingdom (Space Port area, near jungle outpost).

Product Files

Wanted: Fidophiles

FIDO who is also known as 'Bantay' or 'Tagpi' to some need not to be left out of family gatherings - birthday, anniversary, thanksgiving - or any social occasion. With Komiks café's 3rd anniversary, interior designer turned restaurateur Marcelo Alonzo opens his door to dog lovers and their canine friends. Set in the Bohemian district of Manila - Malate. Responsible dog owners can now enjoy modern Filipino fusion cuisine while their canine good citizen friends enjoy sumptuous gourmet lamb/beef treat from Pedigree. For comments, suggestions and/or reservations, contact Rommel or Maricel at 526-2547. Komiks café located at Orosa Street, corner Nakpil Street, Malate, Manila.

Personal gifts for your guy



BVD Company, the legendary American label has recently landed on Philippine shores, making its fine line of men's undergarments including knit bikinis and boxers, undershirts which come in U-neck, crewneck and V-neck cuts plus the premium tank top with reinforced shoulder straps all made of 100 percent U.S. high grade cotton available to Filipinos everywhere. As the world's oldest manufacturer of gentlemen's undergarments, the company has given these pieces of clothing the kind of importance that they deserve. From the trademark Spiral Bustle to the athletic one-piece "Unionsuit" not to mention the company's innovative use and combination of fabrics, BVD has provided the market with a wide array of excellent products and has made the former lowly undergarment an important part of one's lifestyle. BVD products are available at the Landmark Department Store, Plaza Fair Makati, and SM Department Stores in Megamall, Southmall, Manila, Makati, Las Piñas, North Edsa, and Fairview.

ABTS Clips

7th Philippine Web Awards

IT'S election season for the 7th Philippine Web Awards. Sixteen categories are up for grabs at the awards night, on Nov. 23, at the OnStage Theater in Greenbelt, as some 100 semifinalists vie for the Best Website Awards and the People's Choice Awards. Voting has began and will end on Nov. 23. For ticket inquiries, call Rhea Diaron at 812-8401 loc. 154 or e-mail rhea@mediag8way.ph. For sponsorships, call Andrea Comoda at 812-8401 loc. 139 or e-mail andrea@mediag8way.ph. For more information, visit www.philippinewebawards.com.

Search for Lady Premiere

DKT Phils Inc, the exclusive distributor of Trust Quality Condoms in the country and Premiere Party Series in cooperation with Sunrise Entertainment Co, present the semi-final competition of the "Search for Lady Premiere 2004" which will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at Ratsky's Tomas Morato Quezon City. For details, call 718-1885.

Start you own business

FOR those who want to be an entrepreneur, attend the seminars to be conducted by ALPs Business Training Center. The seminars will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rotary Center, Roces Ave. cor. Mother Ignacia St. QC. Oct. 23: Ice Cream and Frozen Delights; Special Hams for Christmas; Herbal Soap; Hairstyles for Men and Women; Oct. 24: Food Business Course; Native Kakanin; Ribbon Making, Wrapping and Packaging. Interested parties may contact ALPs at 900-7876, 900-0851,0919-8237159.

'Ole Flamenco!'

FUNDACION Centro Flamenco will hold a dance concert today at the RCBC Plaza Bldg., Carlos P. Romulo auditorium, top floor, Makati City. Dubbed Ole Flamenco!, the show schedule are as follows: matinee - 3:30 p.m. and evening - 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets. For more inquiries on the event, contact Fundacion Centro Flamenco at 751-2243 or visit www.centroflamencophil.com.

Import Export Bazaar '04

REVEL In a multi-cultural array of goods designed to satisfy every bargain hunter a the Karl Edward Intl's Import Export Bazaar 2004. Check it out on Oct. 23 and 24, and 30 and 31 at Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Blvd. Pasay. Shopping hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Major credit cards will be accepted. Special prizes will include snazzy items and a chance to win P1,000 gift certificate. So come and celebrate the shopping extravaganza of the year.

Registration of cell phone dealers, repair shops extended

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has extended by another month to Nov. 25 the deadline for wireless phone dealers and repair shops to register with the NTC.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said the second extension was in response to clamor from thousands of wireless shops and repair outlets that have yet to comply with the agency's order.

The NTC originally set the deadline on Sept. 25, which it later extended to Oct. 26.

It had ordered the registration of all mobile phone dealers and repair shops nationwide to help prevent the sale of stolen and blocked handsets, according to Sarmiento.

"We came up with the regulation to curb the illegal practice of unauthorized dealers and repair shops. We also want to address the rampant theft of mobile phones that have resulted to deaths and injuries to the victims," he added.

There are between 10,000 and 15,000 mobile phone dealers and another 5,000 to 10,000 cellular phone repair shops in the National Capital Region alone, based on the NTC's estimates.

As of June, the NTC said it had blocked the IMEI number of 6,000 handsets that were reported stolen. In 2003, the blocked handsets stood at 15,000 and the previous year, blocked IMEIs reached 25,000.

The IMEI code is the 15-digit International Mobile Equipment Identity number usually found underneath the removable battery. The NTC was not sure whether the 46,000 stolen handsets it had blocked were eventually unblocked and sold.

"This is what we would like to prevent, which is why we wanted to register the cell phone shops and the repair shops. We want to stop them from selling stolen mobile phones," Sarmiento pointed out.

The Commission had stopped uploading the list of blocked IMEI numbers in the website after receiving a tip that some hackers were able to do something to revive the blocked codes.

The NTC said it would seek assistance from the police to implement the spot checks on the phone dealers and repair shops.

A penalty of P5,000 had been set for each violation committed by a dealer or repair shop. Among these are the sale or trading of stolen phones and parts, unblocking of cellular phones, and operating without an NTC permit.

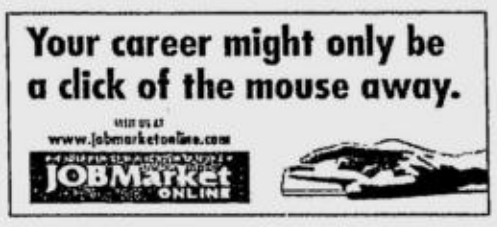
The Commission said it would suspend, cancel or revoke the permit of companies that would violate the circular.

The NTC would collect from each shop a filing fee of P180, a permit fee of P1,200 and an inspection fee of P720. The NTC permit is valid for a year and must be renewed annually.

Dealers were asked to register with the NTC their inventory of mobile phones and SIM cards. They must also submit monthly sales and stock reports.

The NTC added that dealers must not engage in the trading of stolen or smuggled phones and SIM cards while repair shops must not unblock stolen phones and blocked SIM cards.

"These dealers and repair shops shall not accept for repair, servicing or maintenance any mobile phone unit that comes from illegal sources. The altering of IMEI number is strictly prohibited and is illegal," said the NTC official.



Metrobank raises stake in PSBank

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest bank, has raised its stake in savings bank unit Philippine Savings Bank to 74.24 percent from 64 percent.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Metrobank said it bought 18.36 million additional shares of PSBank from investment bank subsidiary First Metro Investment Corp.

"They have been happy about PSBank and its prospects. It should be good for them," PSBank president Pascual Garcia said in an interview yesterday.

Garcia said there would be no major change in PSBank's business strategy following the consolidation of shares in the hands of its parent bank.

This year, he said PSBank would likely exceed the earnings posted last year.

PSBank is projecting a 20-percent expansion in profits over the P406 million generated in 2003 on the back of a 20-percent targeted rise in its loan portfolio.

Garcia said PSBank has been investing heavily in branches this year and was set to open another 18 new branches next month.

He said the savings bank was set to open 29 new branches for the whole year, bringing its total network to 139.

New products have contributed significantly to the bank's increased share of the consumer market. In 2003, its innovative revolving Flexi Credit Line, Home Credit Line, and Business Credit Line products were launched. This year, the bank also launched its PSBank MasterCard and international automated teller machine (ATM) card through MasterCard's Cirrus/Maestro and its Premium Checking account with record book, checkbook and ATM card.

Gulf Air posts 67.5% jump in RP passenger traffic

GULF Air Philippines has reported a 67.5-percent rise in passenger traffic in the first seven months of 2004 compared with the same period the previous year.

Figures showed that a total of 67,285 people flew with Gulf Air from the Philippines between Jan. 1 and July 30, up from 40,174 during the same period in 2003.

The increase was attributed to more flights originating from Manila travelling to the Middle East and Europe and the introduction of new in-flight services such as Gulf Air's Sky Chefs in first class.

With the increase in demand, Gulf Air added an extra four flights a week from the Philippines during 2003. Gulf Air flies direct from Manila to Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Muscat with connections to more than 50 cities in Asia, Australia, Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The Sky Chef service provides first-class passengers with an onboard chef, giving them a fine dining experience during their flight. The Sky Chefs have trained at some of the world's best restaurants.

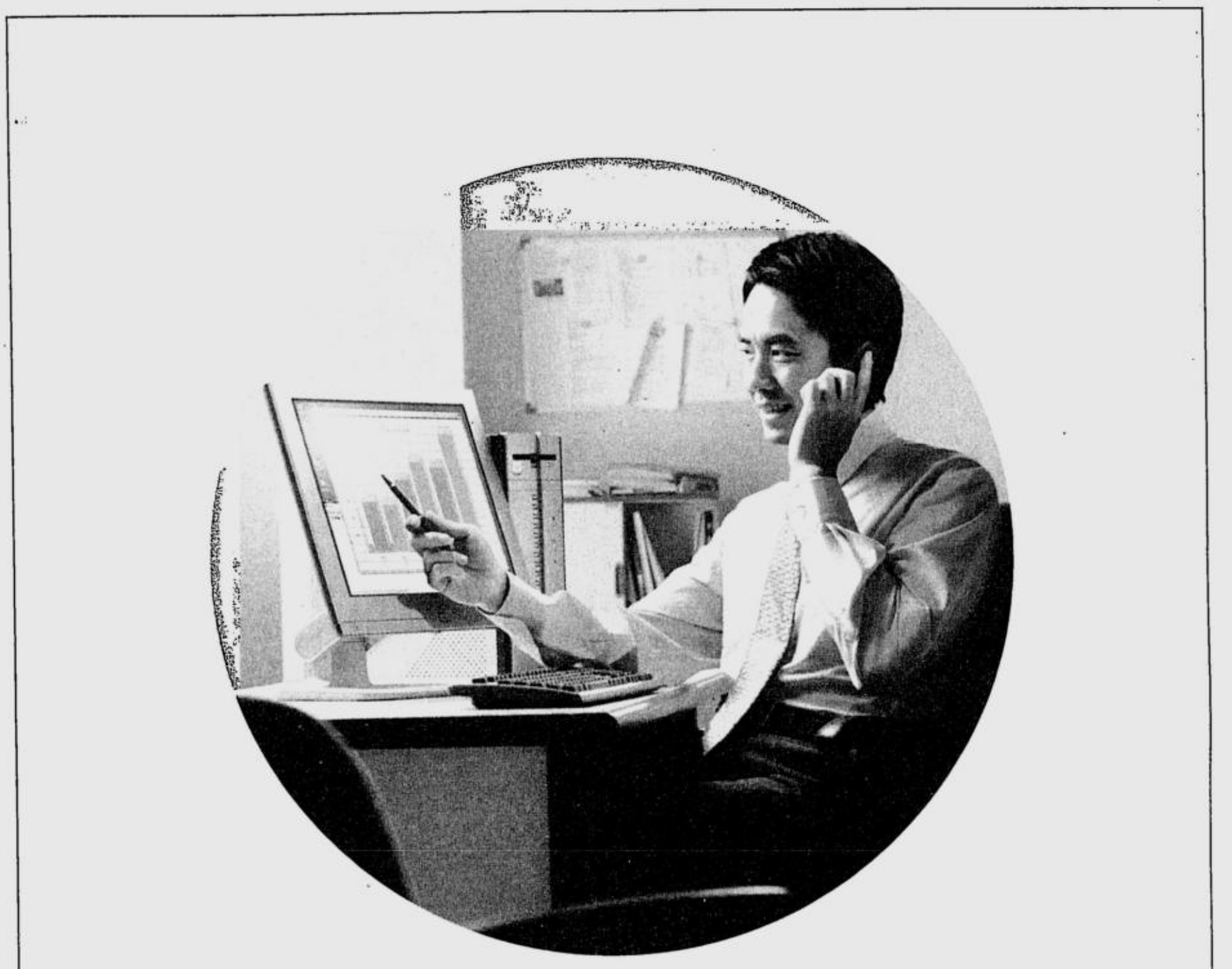
Gulf Air's country manager in the Philippines, Bobby Hukom, said: "The figures show that demand has recovered since the downturn experienced after the SARS outbreak in 2003. Passengers have also responded well to the enhancements we've made to our in-flight services."

BIR seeks . . .

From page B1

budget and management, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and the National Economic and Development Authority—is pushing for a bill that will rationalize the system of taxing cigarettes and alcohol.

Earlier, it was proposing that current tax rates on these products be increased by 20 percent to cover inflation from 1997 to 2003. Current tax rates were still based on 1997 prices. The economic team, however, changed its proposed bill to lower the rate to only 20 percent amid comments from Congress and the industry players that the original proposal was too high.



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BPI Express Remit gives Pinoys hassle-free remittance service

WITH the countless number of remittance services in the country claiming to be reliable, fast and convenient, it is quite hard to find one that is secure enough for people to count on.

As a term of endearment for the hard working Overseas Filipino Workers abroad, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), now fondly calls them Expat Pinoys, in synch with the launch of the Express Remit, a hassle-free service that shows more support and value to the Filipino workers abroad. The facility allows them to send remittances on-time and in real-time directly to their families in the country plus, get text alert confirming that the remittance has been credited.

To share their own experiences and attest to BPI Express Remittance's secure and convenient service, singing champion Eric Santos and his Expat Pinoy father Renato Santos, a construction engineer in Saudi Arabia, were chosen to be the endorsers of the fast and reliable remittance facility.

All the Expat Pinoy has to do to avail of the service is send their remittance through any of the BPI Express Remit Centers worldwide or their tie-up companies. From there, both the remitter and his beneficiary in the Philippines get a text message from BPI confirming that the remittance has already been credited in the beneficiary's account. This assures the Expat Pinoy that the hard-earned money he sent has securely reached his family back home.

The BPI Express Remit service is so hassle-free since it is sends the remittance directly to the beneficiary's BPI Express Teller account or Express Cash card and is immediately available for withdrawal in over 1,200 BPI Express Teller ATMs nationwide, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This Christmas, BPI Express Remit gives a remitter a chance to own a condo unit from LPHI, an Ayala Land, Inc. subsidiary and win cash prizes through BPI Express Remit Condo Aguinaldo promo. The promo is open to all Overseas Filipinos, whether natural-born, naturalized, or born of Filipino parentage, sending remittances through any of the BPI Remit Centers and selected tie-up companies, regardless of amount. Promo runs from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31.

If the beneficiary still does not have a BPI Express Teller Account or Express Cash card, he can easily get one from any BPI or BPI Family Savings branch or Express Banking Center located nationwide.

Apart from Express Remit, BPI has also launched a program that would help Filipinos abroad to achieve their dreams and aspirations, the BPI Expat Pinoys Program, an array of services that offers Filipinos abroad full financial planning and management assistance. This means getting help in availing housing and auto loans, plus educational and insurance plans as well.

Knowing how every Expat Pinoy works hard abroad just to give his family the best in life, BPI makes it more possible

for them to surely attain their dreams. And with the years of banking experience BPI has, BPI Express Remit ensures a convenient, cost-effective, fast and secure way of sending remittance from abroad that Expat Pinoys and their families can truly count on.

ALL AGES CELEBRATE TOGETHERNESS AT AYALA WESTGROVE HEIGHTS

Ayala Westgrove Heights recently hosted an open house event called 'Celebration of Generations', which was a post-Grandparents' Day commemoration. The distinctly secure and peaceful Ayala Westgrove Heights combines a beautiful, nature-rich setting with attractive modern facilities that make living in this prime subdivision a daily, energizing getaway from the demands of city life. For further details on the community amidst the hills and groves, or any future Ayala Land events, please call 848-5000. You may also log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Plyo Sports: For a better game

WE ordinary folk often marvel at the speed, power, agility, flexibility and strength of professional athletes. We hold our breath as we watch a basketball player zoom downcourt, leap high for a rebound, and soar to make a basket.

All this is impressive enough, but believe it or not, there is a way to better an athlete's physical skills and ultimately, improve his game: through Plyo Sports' Frappier Acceleration Sports Training (Fast) program developed by exercise physiologist John Frappier, which is designed to improve speed, agility and overall performance in virtually any sport, not just basketball.

Through an international licensing system, Plyo Sports was given a certificate allowing it to administer the Fast programs in the Philippines.

Here, the first (and so far only) Plyo Sports training facility is located at the Adidas Sports Kamp, E-Square Park, Bonifacio Global City.

"This is the only one in the Philippines right now that offers advanced, scientific sports training for virtually any sport. We are some 10 to 20 years ahead in sports technology that's almost guaranteed to help an athlete improve his game. It's like getting world class sports training in the US, but without ever leaving home," says head trainer and owner Raul Banzon.

Professional athletes like Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) stalwarts Jimmy Alapag, Alvin Patrimonio, Jun Limpot, Johnny Abarrientos, Poch Juinio, Ren-Ren Ritualo Rich Alvarez of Shell and high school star Jai Reyes of the UAAP Juniors champion team Ateneo Blue Eaglets have all benefited from it, along with many others.

In the US and elsewhere in the world, the Plyo System has been used to train the likes of Tracy McGrady, Vince Carter, Tim Henman, Amanda Coetzer, Chris Carter, Ron Artest, Charlie Ward, John Crotty, Antonio Davis, and John Wallace.

Exactly how does the program work? "Athletes who undergo PlyoSport's world renowned acceleration training will help them improve physical skills such as speed, power, agility, flexibility and strength. In six to 12 weeks, an athlete can expect gains in each of these, which translates into an improvement in his/her game. How? Through the use of patented equipment and systematic training protocols that are cutting edge," explains Banzon.

Since the program is results-oriented and modular in structure, an athlete must commit to six to 12 weeks, which, ideally, should be taken during the off-season, or the preparation stage. This way, the athletes experience the most significant gains in performance, adds Banzon.

Is the system guaranteed? "Pretty much, although I do not make such claims, officially speaking," says Banzon. "The reason being is that much of it still depends on the athlete himself—on how much he wants to improve and how hard he works out. Our training center can be described as only a tool and it's up to the athlete how he or she uses these tools."

For more information on the Plyo Training System, visit or call Plyo Sports at the Adidas Sports Kamp, E-Square Park, Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries: please call: 816-11-31.

HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN OF LIGUASAN MARSH

Children's Hour, through it's Davao Chapter, gives hope to children in conflict areas in Maguindanao by providing financial support to Minsupala Economic Development Foundation Inc's (Medfi) project which aims to address the medical and educational needs of Liguasan Marsh children. Photo shows Francis Ledesma, Children's Hour Davao Chapter Steering Committee Chair posing with officials of Medfi and some beneficiaries during a visit to Talitay Municipality where most of the beneficiaries reside.

Think Pink Boutique: The Barbie shop

THINK Pink Boutique, the Barbie fashion shop is now open at the 2nd level of Glorietta 2 in Makati City. Think Pink offers premium Barbie items that combines functionality and style including fashion apparels and accessories, shoes, bags and other novelty pieces that girls will surely love.

Conceptualized as a fashion character shop, Think Pink showcases the latest Barbie Fashion apparels for all seasons. The hottest is the Smith and Brooks Collection from Europe that takes pride on the timelessness of its chic design. It is composed of three dynamic themes, namely: Eco Fresh, Frosty Flurry and Band Crazy that takes inspiration from nature, season and music. The clothes were designed to suit most occasions from basics to specials.

You can also choose from an array of Barbie accessories to go along with your clothes like specially designed shoes that combines comfort and style, high quality back packs, trolleys and hand bags that is made from the finest materials and comes in a range of colors and designs, and fashion watches and jewelry that are always in perfect match with any Barbie wear. Feel free to try on the clothes and accessories. Personnel are always on standby to assist you to mix and match until you find the perfect fit.

Visit Think Pink Boutique now and be in style with Barbie - the fashion brand for girls of all ages. Think Pink Boutique is operated by Richwell Trading Corp, the exclusive distributor of Barbie in the Philippines. For updates on the latest products on sale at Think Pink Boutique, visit www.richwell.net or call tel. no. 732-5141 to 47.

WILCON'S MONEY BACK RAFFLE

Shown are the Wilcon Builders employees at the first draw of Wilcon's Money Back Raffle. The draw was held last Oct. 3 at the Wilcon Head Office in Libis QC. The Money Back Raffle draw is held weekly. At stake is a maximum prize refund of P100,000. Promo ends on Jan. 1, 2005 in Metro Manila and Dec. 31 in Davao.

COTTON USA COOL MUSIC MADNESS GRAND FINALS WINNERS

Besting five other local bands, Milk 'N Money emerged as the Grand Prize winner in the Cotton USA Cool Music Madness Grand Finals held recently at the SM Megamall. The competition was presented by Cotton Council International (CCI), licensor of the Cotton USA Mark. Milk 'N Money received the grand cash prize of P50,000. Second placer Menaya received P30,000 while third placer, Popclinic, received P20,000. A consolation prize of P10,000 each was given to three non-winning bands. Photo shows Laura Nelson (third from right), CCI marketing manager for South and Southeast Asia with DJ Francesca (second from right) and DJ Rico (far right) of Monster Radio 93.1 DWRX presenting the award to a representative of Milk 'N Money. The Cotton USA Cool Music Madness Grand Raffle Draw was also held on the same day. Over 100 lucky participants won special prizes from Cotton USA.

BTS Clips

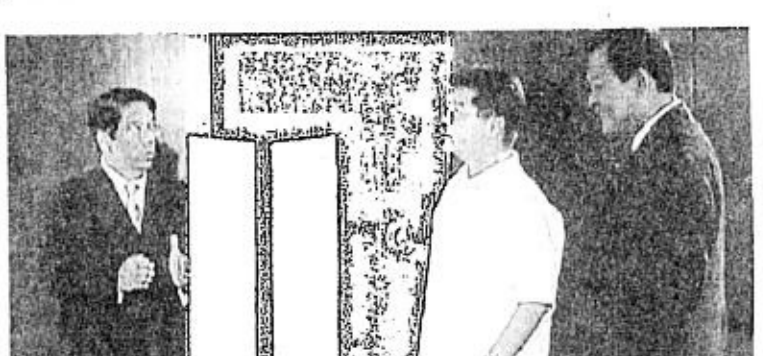
Chili's offers early X-mas bonus

CHILI'S Grill and Bar Restaurant regulars are in for a treat.

Chili's Holiday Cheers Frequency Cards are now available. For a single minimum food/beverage purchase worth at least P2,000, the guest is automatically given one Holiday Cheers Card with one signature. Every succeeding visit with a P2,000 - consumption earns another signature on your card. The sixth signature entitles the guest to a Fitness First Body Care gift certificate which includes: one hour hand foot spa; one hour standard facial; and one hour full body massage. A guest may avail of a new Holiday Cheers card after completion of the previous card. There is no limit to the number of Holiday Cards one may complete, provided the minimum purchase is consumed. Promo period Oct. 15 to 31. Visit any of the following branches: Chili's Grill & Bar in Greenbelt, Makati; Northeast Greenhills; and Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City.

Axe Big Bike Promo winners

FINALLY, after an exciting three month wait, the 5 winners of the 5 Big Bikes were announced during the grand draw held in GMA-7's SOP last Oct. 17. Andrew Alarcon of Muntinlupa City will be revving his way home with the BMW Rockster. Apolinario Abrahan of Batangas will be riding high with his brand new Ducati. Mikko Martelino of Makati can now definitely show girls something big with his Moto Guzzi. Oliver Barzaga of Cavite shall race his way to women's hearts with his new Aprilia Sport and Kristoper Pilapil of Quezon City will definitely look rad in his big bad Harley. Two hundred ninety consolation prizes were also given out to lucky Axe users! Congratulations to all the winners! And to all those who joined, thank you for supporting Axe and the Axe Big Bike Promo. Watch out. The best is yet to come from Axe. Letters will be sent to winners to inform them of how to claim their prize.



CPI-MDGI'S NEW PROJECT IN FORT BONIFACIO

Century Properties-Meridien Development Group (CPI-MDGI) the same developer of Essensa East Forbes, recognized as the best residential building in the country recently introduced its new breakthrough development in Fort Bonifacio City called South of Market or Soma. Soma is a 37-storey twin tower development located right across the newly opened Market Market. It is also the only fully-fitted completely furnished building the Philippines. Shown with the Soma scale model are (from left): CPI-MDGI chair Jose EB Antonio with MDGI president Rafael Yaptinchay and director lawyer Efrenilo Cayanga .

ONE EXTENDED SUMMER GIMIK WITH CHIPPY

Session Road band, with the unique twist of its music, made waves in the recent Chippy Gimikada concert at the 8 Waves Waterpark and Resort. Winners of the RX Chippy Summer Gimikada contest were treated to an evening of music after a day filled with fun and games. DJs Rico Robles and Danielle of RX 93.1 hosted the event. Also present was Powerboys member Geoff Rodriguez who joined the lucky winners in the final summer "gimik" with Chippy. The 100 lucky Gimikadas went home with bags brimming with Chippy premium items and packs of Jack 'n Jill Chippy. Photo shows Session Road band during the Chippy Summer Gimikada 'H2Flow' at the 8 Waves Waterpark and Resort in San Rafael, Bulacan.

WESOLV IS CISCO SILVER CERTIFIED PARTNER

Fujitsu Philippines Inc through WeSolv Open Computing Inc, its networking and communications subsidiary, has become a Cisco Silver Certified Partner, which provides superior service and support capabilities for corporate customers. Shown are Luichi Robles, country manager at Cisco Systems Philippines (extreme left), talking with Peter G. Tan, WeSolv president (center). Flanking them is (extreme right) Larrem Panganiban, Cisco channels manager.

SMC gets nod to put up ₱5-B bottle plants

THE BOARD of Investments has approved a P5.16-billion project of a San Miguel Corp. subsidiary to put up a network of plastic bottle factories across the nation.

According to a document, Beverage Packaging Specialist Inc. wanted to start the commercial operations of plants in Pampanga, Laguna, Cebu and Davao by January 2005.

Expected to create 402 jobs, the facilities would produce regular plastic bottles as well as plasma-coated polyethylene terepthalate (PET) bottles used for water, carbonated drinks and other beverages.

The project is registered as a pioneer venture in packaging as the Department of Science and Technology has certified that the production of plasma-covered PET bottles entailed processes and technology that are new to the Philippines.

Aside from that, the project also met the minimum cost of at least $5 million—about P280 million—to qualify for incentives granted to the packaging sector.

Beverage Packaging would have an aggregate capacity of producing 31,366 tons a year, translating to some 682 million 1.5-liter PET bottles including caps.

Also, the company was required to submit to the DOST or the Bureau of Food and Drugs samples of the bottles produced. The samples would undergo tests on whether these "are really plasma-coated using the chemical vapor deposition coating system."

"A single negative result (will result in) the cancellation of (Beverage Packaging's) registration." The firm must also refund whatever incentives it has availed. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

RP, Taiwan seal $45M in business deals

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A PHILIPPINE investment mission to Taiwan recently clinched five business deals worth a total of $45 million, according to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

Purisima, who headed the mission that set out for Taiwan on Oct. 18, said the five projects would locate at the Subic Bay International Park—a Taiwanese industrial estate project located at the Subic Freeport.

"At full capacity, the (new) projects would be able to generate between $96 million and $120 million in exports," Purisima said. "These would increase SBIP's industrial area usage by another 15 hectares from 50 hectares."

The SBIP is a 153-hectare industrial area managed by the Subic Bay Development and Management Center. Phase I of the SBIP covers about 105 hectares and Phase II, about 48 hectares.

Current locators at the SBIP include Wistron Infocomm, Taiwan Hitachi, Teco Electric and Machinery, Contex Corp., Taian Subic and Tailin Abrasives Corp. Computer maker Wistron's main supplier of notebook peripherals, Catcher Technology (Philippines) Inc., has also chosen to locate in the park.

Purisima said that the investment commitments would add 2,610 jobs to the existing 4,000 jobs within SBIP.

"In one investment swing, our mission lured top Taiwanese firms and added more job opportunities for the Subic-Olongapo area," Purisima said.

The projects which the Taiwan mission secured were:

- $2 million in initial investment for a facility that would manufacture paint and lithium-ion batteries;
- A manufacturing plant for digital and analog telecommunications switching systems for export to China and Taiwan;
- An abrasives production facility to be relocated from Taiwan;
- a factory that would manufacture gas-related components as well as completed grill and other cooking equipment for export to the United States and Europe; and,
- a facility capable of producing each month 10 million Sony and Maxwell compact and digital video discs worth $2 million.

SBIP hosts Subic's biggest export earners, Wistron and Taiwan Hitachi. As of the first nine months, Acer Computers subsidiary Wistron remained the top exporter, posting receipts worth $384 million.

In the same period, air-conditioner maker Taiwan Hitachi Subic Inc. was the fifth-largest Subic exporter with $6 million in receipts.

BIR turns to law students for help in pinning down tax cheats

By Michelle V. Remo

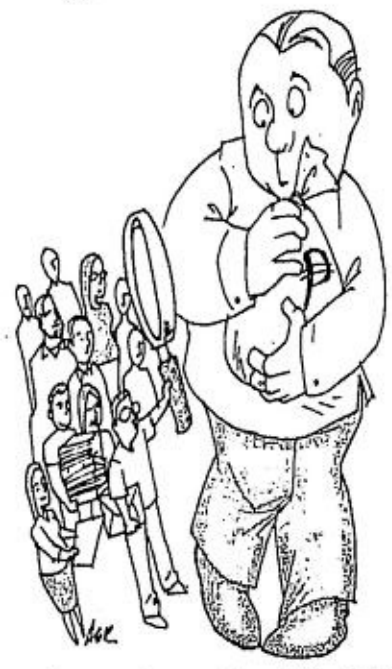
LAW STUDENTS have agreed to render their services for free to help the Bureau of Internal Revenue in prosecuting hundreds of tax evasion cases.

BIR officials yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with representatives of five law schools that had accepted the revenue agency's invitation to assist the government in pinning down at least 300 companies suspected of tax delinquency.

The schools include the University of the Philippines College of Law, University of the Philippines College of Law, Arellano Law School, Far Eastern University College of Law, and Ateneo de Manila University Law School. According to the respective deans, a lot of law students have agreed to aid the bureau.

"The invitation of the BIR will capture students who are at the height of their idealism," said Raul Pangalangan, dean of the UP College of Law, during the signing of the MOA yesterday.

The students will be tapped to provide research materials and case



study reports on the 300 cases which the bureau wants to file before the end of the year.

Some of the cases are already pending in courts, while others still need to be developed.

"When we heard about the BIR's invitation, we offered our assistance because we realized that this was a good opportunity for us to learn," said Majella Gallevo, a second-year FEU Law School student.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. yesterday said they decided to tap the services of students because the bureau's resources were not enough to successfully prosecute all the suspected tax delinquents before the end of the year.

Parayno said the students would help out in big tax evasion cases, such as the one against tycoon Lucio Tan.

The BIR commissioner said the 300 suspected firms each have assets of at least P10 million. Some are even worth billions of pesos. He said the BIR would be able to detect tax delinquent firms during tax mapping operations.

To compensate the students, the BIR would provide them proper training on prosecution by allowing them to appear before various prosecutors offices and courts in the preliminary investigation of the tax evasion cases. The BIR said it had already assigned cases to each of the five law schools.

"The participating students will now have a better understanding of (how), to build cases and run after those who violate our tax laws," the BIR said in a statement.

DA confident RP will be self-sufficient in rice by '06

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) is confident that the country will achieve 100-percent self-sufficiency in rice production by 2006 despite budgetary constraints.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said President Macapagal-Arroyo has reaffirmed her administration's commitment to provide the funds required to pursue and sustain the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) or GMA Rice Program.

The GMA rice program, which aims to increase rice production and yield through the use of certified and hybrid rice seeds, has been having problems due to lack of funds.

Francisco Malabanan, rice program director, said that out of the P550 million allocated for the rice program this year, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has only released P181 million.

The balance of P369 million is supposed to be paid to local hybrid rice seed growers contracted by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice) to supply the high-yielding hybrid rice seeds that would be distributed to farmers at the subsidized rate of P1,200 per 20-kilogram bag.

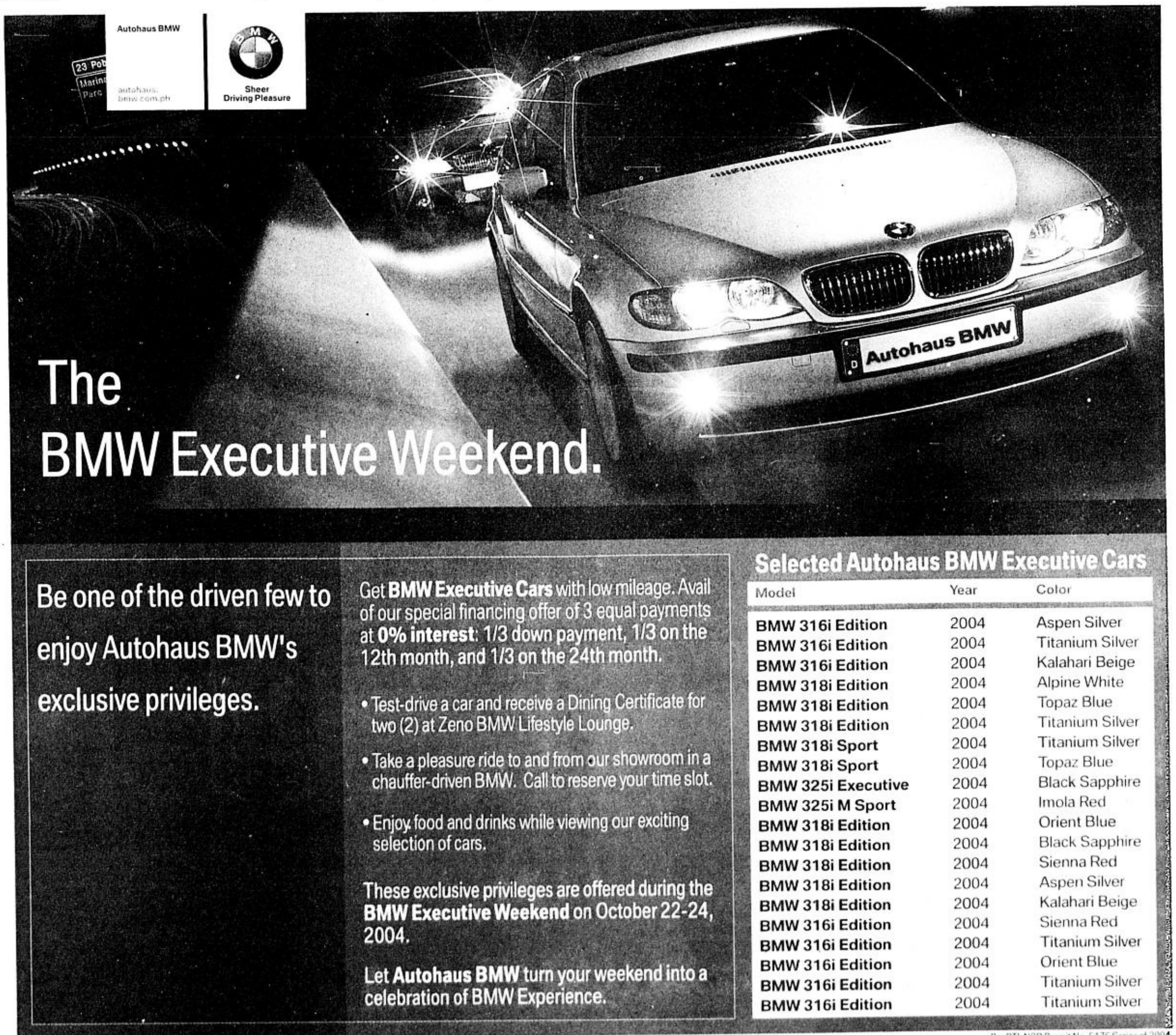
As a result, the DA was forced to trim this year's rice production target to a range of 14.03 million to 14.26 million metric tons (MT).

Malabanan noted that this is the first time the DA revised its rice production targets. The revised target is 640,000 MT, or 840,000 MT lower than the original production target of 14.9 million MT. In 2003, rice production totaled 13.49 million MT.

He said the delay in the payment of hybrid rice seed growers is discouraging producers to continue supplying Philrice and this could further set back government efforts to attain self-sufficiency in rice.

Malabanan said the rice production target for next year was placed at 15.07 million MT or 97 percent self-sufficiency.

"Without a corresponding budget, the DA will be hard-pressed to meet its targets," Malabanan said.



Oil bubbles near $55 a barrel on fears of winter fuel crunch

SINGAPORE—Oil prices simmered near $55 a barrel on Friday on rising fears of a winter fuel supply crunch and robust but slowing economic growth in China, the world's number two user.

US light crude traded 17 cents higher at $54.64 a barrel in Asian dealings, extending a late Thursday recovery to just under $1 of Monday's all-time peak of $55.33.

Prices have hit a succession of record highs over $50 for the past three weeks.

Brent crude oil was up 20 cents to $50.92.

A wave of profit-taking by big-money funds trimmed gains at the start of this week, but prices quickly resumed their upward march after US government data on Wednesday showed a deepening yearly deficit of heating oil inventories.

US supplies of winter fuel fell last week to stand 12 percent below this time in 2003, a worryingly wide gap that traders fear refiners will not be able to close if the heavy consuming Northeast is hit with an early or severe winter.

"If we start to see quite a cold winter in the northern hemisphere, and particularly in the United States, that will drive prices in the short-term," said industry analyst Daniel Hynes of ANZ Bank in Melbourne.

Federal weather forecasters said on Thursday they were still unable to predict whether the US Northeast or Midwest would have a cold, warm or normal winter, with equal chances of each.

The normal autumn stockbuild has been hampered by the damage caused by last month's Hurricane Ivan in the oil-producing Gulf of Mexico, where more than 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of US production remains shut in, a government agency said on Thursday.

A LONG line of vehicles wait for the green light at a traffic junction in Singapore. Car drivers face higher petrol bills as oil prices remain above 54 US dollars a barrel in Asian trading. AFP

Heating oil futures were trading at $1.5820 a gallon, just 10 points away from Thursday's all-time high.

Supplies are more than 10 percent below 2003 levels in Japan, the world's third-biggest user, although forecasters say normal winter temperatures should help avert major shortages there.

US distillate consumption is running 4 percent above last year's level as solid US economic growth drives diesel demand, but dealers are growing increasingly worried about the longer-term impact of high prices on import-dependent economies.

China, the engine behind this year's surge in oil demand, has moved to rein in blazing economic growth to avert a potential meltdown.

Annual economic growth has slowed three quarters in a row, but at 9.1 percent the pace of expansion remains strong, official data for July-September showed on Friday.

"China was a leading cause of the current oil price boom, so it's not surprising that economic data like that would support prices," Hynes said .

Earlier this week, data showed crude oil imports rising by a slower pace in September, but oil company officials say they are on track to expand by 10 percent next year.

A weaker dollar has helped support oil's run-up by cushioning the impact of higher prices for consumers using other currencies, particularly in Europe and Asia, but crude at $50-plus is taking some luster out of otherwise strong economies.

US Federal Reserve Board Governor Ben Bernanke said on Thursday higher energy costs had constituted a "significant shock to the economic system" and were likely to cut US economic growth by a half to three-quarters of a percentage point this year.

But he later added: "That still leaves us with growth near 4 percent, which is pretty good." *Reuters*

Japan service sector grew in August

TOKYO—Japan's service sector expanded in August, underscoring views that domestic demand was underpinning the economy and helping to offset the effects of a global slowdown that could choke off demand for exports.

Japan's tertiary sector index rose 0.4 percent in August from July on a seasonally adjusted basis, data from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) data showed on Friday.

That was slightly below a consensus forecast of 0.5 percent.

The all-industries index, which combines the tertiary sector index with other barometers such as industrial output, inched up 0.2 percent from the previous month, also just shy of a forecast rise of 0.3 percent in a Reuters poll of economists.

The small increases, which came after weaker than expected readings for July, were taken as a sign that although Japanese growth slowed in the third quarter, the economy was not about to dive into recession.

"In general, economic expansion is continuing, although the pace of growth is slowing temporarily now. But that does not mean recovery is peaking out," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital Japan.

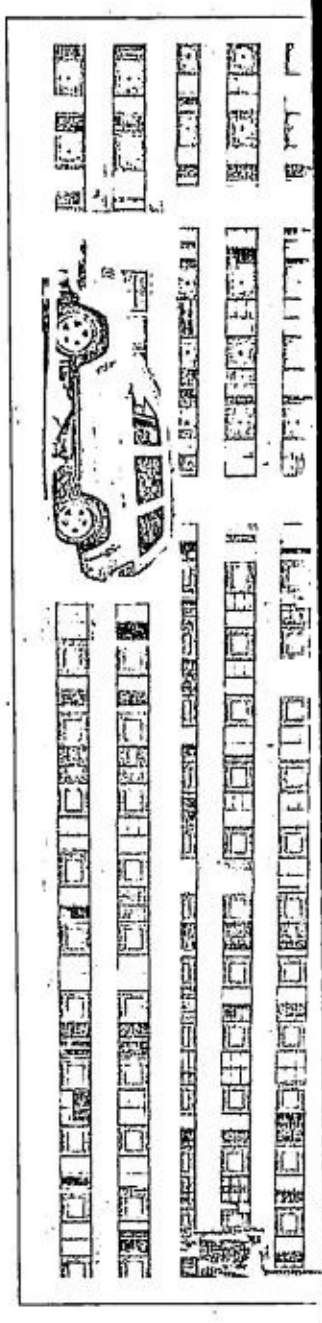
Details showed the information and communications industry—including mobile phones and video game software—enjoyed a recovery in business. The sub-index rose 7.8 percent.

Restaurants and hotels, on the other hand, saw a 4.1 percent fall in business, and a ministry official said rainy weather had kept people at home.

The yen barely moved, hovering just below four-month highs around 107.30 to the dollar after the data before dipping to 107.60 after Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki warned his ministry could intervene if it rose too far.

A month ago, markets were surprised by a 0.8 percent fall in the tertiary sector index for July, which suggested that a heat wave that month and buying of electronic appliances ahead of the Athens Olympics had not given retailers as much help as expected.

Private consumption accounts for about 55 percent of Japan's economy and its strength is crucial for sustainable growth. *Reuters*



US CEOs plan to boost technology spending

NEW YORK—Many US chief executives plan to boost technology spending in 2005, after the outcome of the presidential election becomes clear, a survey released this week showed.

But overall CEO confidence was down for the third month in a row in October, according to the survey by Chief Executive magazine.

"In the short term CEOs are on the hold because of the elections," William Holstein, the magazine's editor in chief, said in an interview on Thursday.

As a result, more than 70 percent of the roughly 500 CEOs questioned said they would increase tech spending in the next year.

"CEOs have been tough-minded about costs so far, and now the business environment is putting a stress on them and they realize they have to start spending on technology to grasp the business opportunities that are out there," Holstein said.

About 25 percent of the bosses said they might increase spending by more than 10 percent of their current budget, while 26 percent said they expect to boost tech spending by 5 percent to 9 percent. Only 8 percent of executives surveyed intended to cut spending over the next year.

The top three areas where CEOs aim to add resources are hardware, security and software integration, and the increased investment by companies could in turn spur jobs growth.

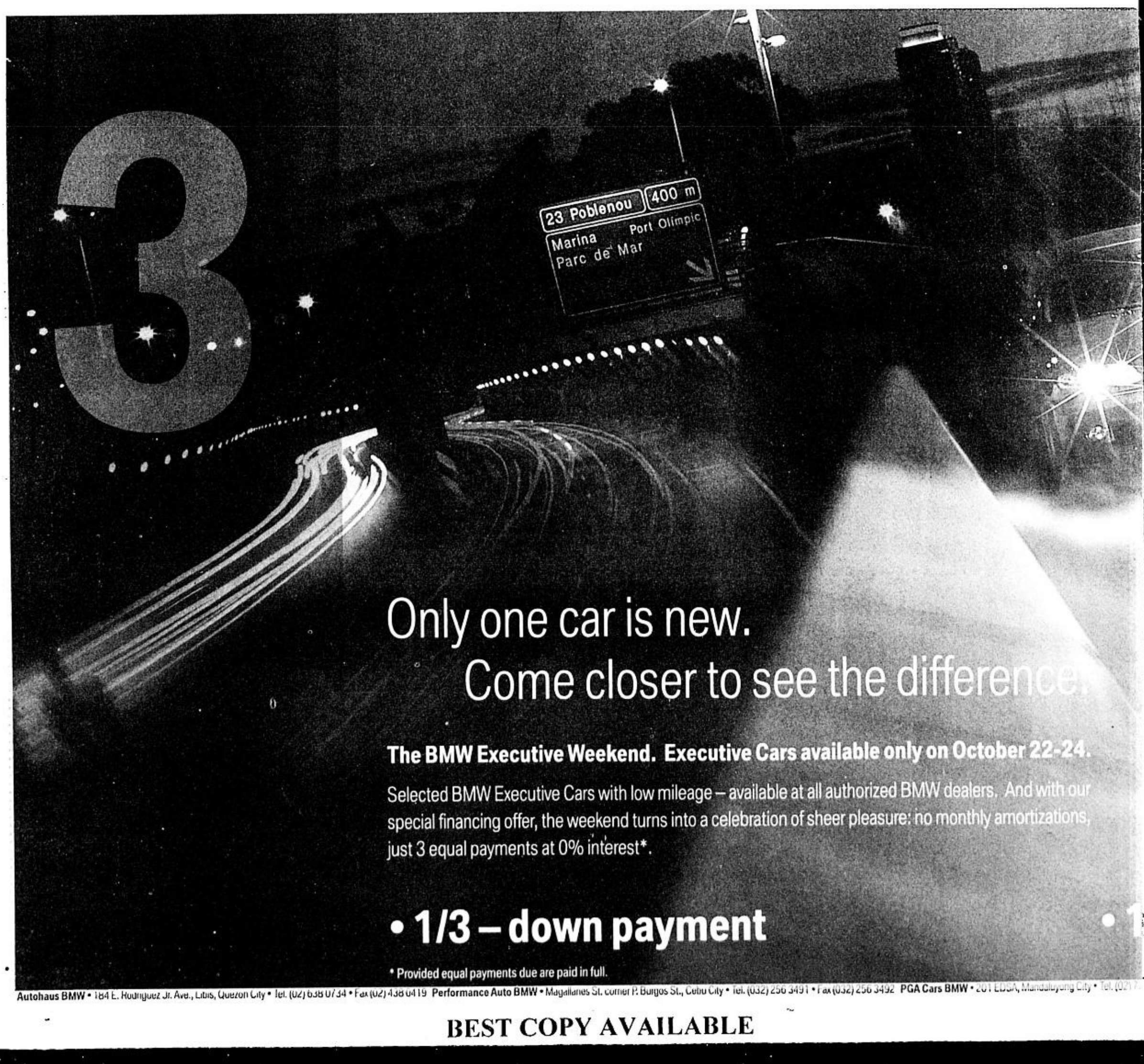
"We believe that there is serious evidence to suggest employment will increase in the near future," Edward Kopko, chair and CEO of the Chief Executive Group, said in a statement. *Reuters*

Drop in

NEW YORK—A drop in US
latest week and an upward
manufacturing index signal
for the US economy at the
quarter.

Those signs, combined w
consumer prices, solidified
Federal Reserve would rais
next policy meeting in Nove

The Labor Department r
less aid fell by a larger-than
329,000 in the week ended
as a good sign for job growt



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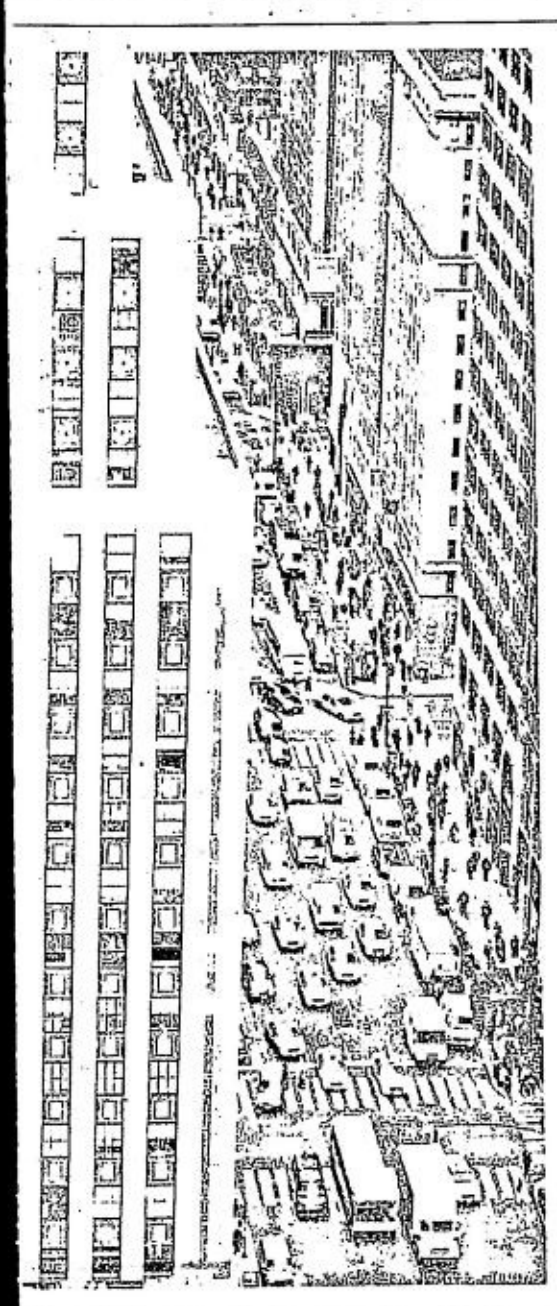

AS OIL PRICE RISES, SO DOES THIS JEEP
A Jeep climbs up a 30-story skyscraper in New York. The vehicle was pulled up the building as part of the publicity campaign for the new 2005 model of Jeep Cherokee. REUTERS

Asia shares higher on tech, China GDP

SINGAPORE—Asian stock markets edged higher on Friday on strong earnings outlooks for tech firms, while shares of companies doing business with China rose as Beijing said its economy grew at a robust, if slower, pace.

European shares were expected to rise after sharp gains in US technology stocks, but shares in Swedish telecoms equipment maker Ericsson dipped after lackluster results and a drab outlook.

Gold pulled back further from a new six-month high set on Thursday, and the US dollar steadied near multi-month lows.

Japan's Nikkei stock average closed up 0.63 percent at 10,857.13.

Asian shipping, steel and trading firms bounced after China said its economy expanded 9.1 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, slightly above market expectations.

It marked the third straight quarter of slower growth, due to Beijing's efforts to rein in investment and lending.

Economists said the slowdown in the world's seventh-largest economy could reduce the need to raise interest rates.

"It seems like the Chinese economy is still on a growth path. Just looking at this number, I think buyers will continue to scoop up China-related stocks like steel and shipping firms," said Yasuo Ueki, analyst at Poko Financial Office.

Active gainers included Nippon Steel Corp., Japan's biggest steel maker, which surged 3.73 percent, rival JFE Holdings Inc., which rose 2.89 percent, and Singapore's Neptune Orient Lines, up 1.38 percent.

Shipping firm Nippon Yusen KK gained 1.5 percent, while Japan's biggest trading firm, Mitsubishi Corp., jumped 2.67 percent.

An MSCI index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.16 percent, led by a 1.03-percent gain in its technology component.

A rise in shares of US technology companies and improved earnings prospects led investors to bid up the sector in Asia.

Tokyo Electron Ltd., the world's second-biggest maker of chip-making equipment, leapt 2.78 percent, and electronics conglomerate Toshiba Corp. gained 1.68 percent after it said it expected a net profit in the fiscal first half, revising its previous loss forecast.

Advantest Corp., the world's largest maker of chip testing devices, rose 2.48 percent after media reports that it may post a 12-fold jump in first-half group net profit.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's biggest maker of memory chips, rose 1.98 percent, while Taiwan's United Microelectronics Corp. rose 1.5 percent.

Benchmark indexes in Australia and Singapore showed small gains, while Taiwan's index slipped 0.39 percent. Markets in Hong Kong were closed for a holiday.

South Korea's benchmark index rose 0.92 percent as investors reacted to earnings, China growth and a court decision overturning a plan to relocate the country's capital.

Shares of Kookmin Bank, the nation's largest lender, were down 0.4 percent ahead of its earnings report, which showed a nine-fold increase in quarterly profit.

Fourth-ranked Hana Bank rose 1.86 percent after a better-than-expected 55 percent jump in quarterly profits. *Reuters*

China's Q3 growth seen to slow down

BEIJING—China's third-quarter gross domestic product expanded 9.1 percent from a year earlier, marking the third consecutive quarter of slower growth as Beijing reins in breakneck investment and lending, data showed.

Economists said a slew of data on Friday mostly showed evidence of a measured slowdown in growth in the world's seventh largest economy that could reduce the need to raise interest rates.

But officials gave no indication they planned to scale back credit and investment curbs, which have helped to slow the pace of annual growth in GDP from 9.8 percent in the first quarter and 9.6 percent in the second quarter.

Zheng Jingping, spokesperson for the National Statistical Bureau, pointed to high prices, tight energy supplies, rising inventories and the possibility of a fresh boom in investment as reasons for keeping tough economic measures in place.

"We cannot treat these problems lightly," Zheng said. "We should further enhance and expand the achievements of macro-control to guard against a rebound of those problems."

The GDP figure was close to the median forecast of 9.0 percent in a Reuters survey of eight forecasters.

Economists said authorities would be encouraged by a dip in annual consumer price inflation to 5.2 percent for September, down from a seven-year high of 5.3 percent in the prior two months. Economists had forecast it would stay at that level in September.

Growth in urban fixed-asset investment slowed to 27.9 percent for September from a year earlier. This compared with growth figures of more than 30 percent during the first half of the year.

The government has clamped down on credit and introduced a raft of measures, such as tighter land-planning rules, to cool investment in sectors such as property, steel and cars.

"The modest slowdown in fixed-asset investment and the pronounced slowdown in inflation are what the authorities want to see," said Tim Condon, an economist with ING in Singapore. "Loosening the tightening measures is their next step. I think they can declare victory and start to remove them." *Reuters*

jobless claims show economic growth in US

obless claims in the spurt in a regional d continued growth start of the fourth

h a recent rise in US xpectations that the interest rates at its nber.

ported that US job- expected 25,000 to)ct.16, a report seen

In a revision, the Labor Department said new claims for unemployment insurance had reached 354,000 the week before, up from the 352,000 originally reported.

The latest fall was steeper than economists had anticipated and brought new jobless claims to the lowest level in more than two months. In the year-ago week, claims totaled 391,000.

A four-week moving average of initial claims, which smoothes short-term volatility, dropped to 348,250 from 353,750, a level that economists associate with moderate hiring.

Meanwhile, a survey from the Philadelphia Federal Reserve showed that factory activity in the US Mid-Atlantic region rebounded in October.

The Philadelphia Fed said its business activity index rose to 28.5 in October from a soft reading of 13.4 in September, well above economists' forecasts of a pick-up to 17.

"It's encouraging to see the index bounce back in October from a soft number in September," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at A.G. Edwards and Sons in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Philly Fed survey is one of the first indicators of US manufacturing every month and is often viewed as a gauge of the overall state of factories nationwide.

Thayer said the numbers showed the economy was "growing at a decent pace," leaving the Fed room to raise interest rates, particularly in light of September's gains in consumer prices.

Some of the Philadelphia Fed index's sub-indexes were less upbeat than the reading of the overall index.

Economists noted that the survey's employment component fell to 14.1 from 21.5 and the index measuring the outlook for business conditions six months out fell to 27.6 from 44.9. *Reuters*

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"INTRODUCTION TO CRYSTALS" SEMINAR OCT. 24 ; 2PM TEL 5255795 / 5260741

Notice is Hereby Given That The Estate Of The Late Zacarias C. Hilllado who died on December 29,1998 at Makati Medical Center,Makati City Had Been Settled By His Heirs In Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate With Sale. Subscribed and Acknowledged before Atty. Perfecto L. Dimayuga Notary Public for and In the City of Makati per Doc. No. 406; Page No. 83 Book No. L1; Series of 2004.(PDI-Oct.16,23,30,2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ISIDRO MONTES was self-adjudicated to her belore Notary Public Juan C. Siapno, Jr. of San Fabian, Pangasinan per Doc. No. 11, Page No. 3, Book No. V, Series of 2004. (PDI-Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Alfredo Joson Adjudicated by his surviving heir Gloria Joson with TCT# Doc#188, Page# 098, Book#09 Series of 2004 before Notary Public Rodrigo Corpuz of Las Piñas City Oct 23, 30 Nov. 6, 2004

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I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The Pre-bid Conference will be held on 10 November 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on 17 November 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Bids of eligible bidders will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives on 24 November 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bids/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

October 21, 2004.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – October 23 & 30, 2004)

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Is in need for

QUALITY ASSURANCE II DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Qualifications:
Has at least 5 years extensive exposure/technical knowledge in the Quality Assurance for UPS Product, process control, and evaluation of product, dealing with customer claims for damage, purchase and quality control of materials. Must have hands-on experience on various related QA device/ equipment.

ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK NIHONGO.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2x2 recent picture and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 225, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Tacurong City

INVITATION TO BID

1.) The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) is inviting sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) 10 MVA, 69/13.2 kV, Delta-Wye Power Transformer with Off-Load Tap Changer and complete protection and metering accessories for Isulan Substation on Turn-key Basis.

2.) The power transformer and all accessories must be brand new and either Chinese, US or European-made. The primary protection must be SF6 Power Circuit Breaker, Dead Tank. The 13.2 kV side equipment must be a hermetically-sealed modular three-feeder switchgear protected by SF6 circuit breakers with high performance protection relay and digital feeder metering capable of measuring and storing current, voltage, power, energy, power factor, time-of-use and harmonics with computer or modem interface. The civil works will only include steel support and foundation and excludes fencing, site development and filling.

3.) SUKELCO prefers bidders that accept P5M downpayment and offer financing scheme of the balance for three (3) years. Bidders must show an Official Manufacturer's Certificate (OMC) from the power transformer manufacturer. Successful bidder must present IEC or other equivalent international standards Test Results for all equipment. Bidders who wish to apply for eligibility may submit together with the bids, the following requirements, duly notarized: 1) DTI business name registration 2) SEC registration certificate, 3) Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year 4) Copy of TIN issued by BIR or copy of BIR registration showing TIN, 5) Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding any government or private agency office or corporation, 6) Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR.

4.) Deadline for submission of sealed bids shall be on November 10, 2004.

5.) Submit sealed bids to:
The Chairman
Pre-Bids and Awards Committee
Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tacurong City

6.) SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative.

7.) Interested bidders may obtain further information at the following address:
Godofredo F. Sanchez, Jr.
Engineering Department
Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tacurong City
064-200-3155/4050
Fax No. 064-200-3156

(Sgd.) DEMETRIO O. JEREZ
General Manager

(PDI – Oct. 22 & 23, 2004)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

1995 Mitsubishi Lancer / UFD-532
1995 Nissan Bluebird Altima / UBJ-898
1999 Honda Civic / WJU-101
2004 Ford Everest Wagon / XMP-244

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel. # 878-54-57

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF CAROLINA
BUNCOMBE COUNTY
In the Superior Court, Case No. 03-CVS-05597

PATRICIA SMITH, Plaintiff
v.s.
THE GROVE PARK INN RESORT, INC.,
WORLDWIDE TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.
Defendants,
v.s.
KENNETH M. POWELL, WINA GO POWELL,
POWELL SERVICES, INC. and JERRY SMITH,

To: Kenneth M. Powell

TAKEN NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: The Grove Park Inn Resort, Inc. has asserted claims for conspiracy to defraud, conversion, and RICO. These claims relate to four contracts for renovations at the Grove Park Inn, and certain payments made to you by contractors on those projects.

You are required to make defense to such a pleading not later than forty (40) days from FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION TO BE INSERTED HERE, exclusive of such date, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply ot the Court for the relief sought.

This the 23rd day of October, 2004.

Michael G. Adams
N.C. State Bar No. 16528
PARKER, POE, ADAMS & BERNSTEIN, L.L.P.
2500 Charlotte Plaza, Charlotte, North Carolina 28244
Telephone : (704) 372-9000
Facsimile : (704) 334-4706

(PDI - Oct. 23, 30 & Nov. 6, 2004)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO)

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale are fifty four (54) parcels of land formerly owned by PENINSULA BANK (Penbank), located at the towns of Pagbilao, Unisan and Tayabas Province of Quezon, as well as a parcel of land formerly owned by INTERLAND CHEMICALS, INC. (ICI), located at Barangay Balubad, Atimonan, Province of Quezon.

The 55 parcels of land are being offered on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, as follows:

Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank)
DAY 1 (Site 1 to 28)
November 23, 2004, Tuesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Indicative Price
1	T-201847	Lot-1117-A	3,719	803,000 00
2	T-390059	Lot-14-C-7	85	60,000 00
3	T-390060	Lot-14-C-11	100	95,000 00
4	T-390054	Lot-14-A-3	100	75,000 00
5	T-390055	Lot-14-A-4	100	75,000 00
6	T-390058	Lot-14-A-5	86	62,000 00
7	T-390099	Lot-10, Blk. 4	192	173,000 00
8	T-390052	Lot-2-A	120	108,000 00
9	T-390053	Lot-2-B	120	108,000 00
10	T-390087	Lot-18, Blk. 10-B	252	164,000 00
11	T-390086	Lot-7	115 5	87,000 00
12	T-390063	Lot-5	116	87,000 00
13	T-390085	Lot-7	119	87,000 00
14	T-390084	Lot-8	120	54,000 00
15	T-390103	Lot-6, Blk. 6	230	150,000 00
16	T-390089	Lot-7, Blk. 6	204	133,000 00
17	T-390051	Lot-6	89	67,000 00
18	T-390061	Lot-12, Blk. 6	227	148,000 00
19	T-390078	Lot-1	117	47,000 00
20	T-390076	Lot-8	110	66,000 00
21	T-390077	Lot-1	120	54,000 00
22	T-390075	Lot-2	183	82,000 00
23	T-390074	Lot-7	149	89,000 00
24	T-390072	Lot-6	97	58,000 00
25	T-390070	Lot-5	96	58,000 00
26	T-390071	Lot-4	107	64,000 00
27	T-390073	Lot-3, Blk. 10-A	372	130,000 00
28	T-390080	Lot-5	138	62,000 00

Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank)
DAY 2 (Site 29 to 54)
November 24, 2004, Wednesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (Sq.m.)	Indicative Price
29	T-390081	Lot-4	161	81,000 00
30	T-390070	Lot-3	117	53,000 00
31	T-390065	Lot-3	194	87,000 00
32	T-390068	Lot-6	142	85,000 00
33	T-390067	Lot-5	100	60,000 00
34	T-390066	Lot-4	96	58,000 00
35	T-390069	Lot-5	102	61,000 00
36	T-390088	Lot-4	82	37,000 00
37	T-390062	Lot-3	135	41,000 00
38	T-390083	Lot-5	84	22,000 00
39	T-390064	Lot-7	93	28,000 00
40	T-390101	Lot-12, Blk. 9	162	122,000 00
41	T-390097	Lot-3	199	129,000 00
42	T-390092	Lot-18, Blk. 10	162	122,000 00
43	T-390105	Lot-16, Blk. 5	163	106,000 00
44	T-390091	Lot-8, Blk. 11	231	150,000 00
45	T-390104	Lot-7, Blk. 13	137	89,000 00
46	T-390096	Lot-10, Blk. 13	150	98,000 00
47	T-390090	Lot-7, Blk. 8	150	90,000 00
48	T-390100	Lot-8, Blk. 8	150	90,000 00
49	T-390106	Lot-15, Blk. 8	150	90,000 00
50	T-390102	Lot-11, Blk. 9	150	98,000 00
51	T-390098	Lot1-B-2	830	208,000 00
52	T-390108	Lot-745	125	188,000 00
53	T-390094	Lot-3 Blk. 14	180	90,000 00
54	T-390109	Lot-9880-B-3-A	222	400,000.00

Interland Chemicals, Inc. (ICI)
DAY 2 (Site 55)
November 24, 2004, Wednesday
Submission of Offers (2.00 to 3.00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (Sq.m.)	Indicative Price
55	T-207151	Parcel 7, Lot-3	41,501	6,225,000 00

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors following the assigned schedule.
Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the Offer for Sale documents for a nominal fee of P300.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
For more information please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 or 817-8762

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PNB

PUBLIC AUCTION

OCTOBER 28, 2004 • THURSDAY • 2:00 p.m.
ST. ANTHONY HALL, SACRED HEART CENTER
D. Jacosalem Street, Cebu City

BOGO

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,323 sqm.
Lot 1003-B-5-B-2-D Taytayan, Bogo, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 523,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 1986-B-2-B-2 Interior From Roberto Ancajas Ave. , Bogo, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 540,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 700 sqm.
Lot 1986-B-1 Roberto Ancajas Ave., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 1,197,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,794 sqm.
Lot 1986-B-2-B-2-B-3 Roberto Ancajas Ave., Poblacion , Bogo, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 609,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,316 sqm.
Lot 1003-B-5-D Taytayan, Bogo, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 1,101,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 641 sqm. Floor Area: 63 sqm.
Lot 1986-B-2-B-2b-1 Roberto Ancajas Ave., Poblacion, Bogo, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 511,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,300 sqm.
Floor Area: 149 sqm.
Lot 1986-B-2-A Roberto Ancajas Ave., Poblacion, Bogo, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 1,712,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 455 sqm.
Floor Area: 80 sqm.
Lot 1986-B-2-B-1 & Lot 1986-B-2-B-2-A Roberto Ancajas Ave., Poblacion, Bogo
Minimum Bid Price: 599,000.00

CEBU CITY

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 400 sqm.
Floor Area: 248 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk. 4 # 12 Camp Lapu-Lapu Rd., San Antonio Vill. ,Banilad, Cebu City
Minimum Bid Price: 4,687,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 158 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 6 Premier Corner Cahipa Sts. Hippodromo St.
Minimum Bid Price: 431,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,276 sqm.
Lot 5756-A Cebu South Rd., Basak, San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 4,785,000.00

LOT 12 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area:
SOLD
Minimum Bid Price:

LOT 13 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 188 sqm.
Unit 502 5/F Buenaventura Condominium E, Osmena St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price: 5,580,000.00

LOT 14 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 188 sqm.
Unit # Ph 5 7/F Buenaventura Condominium E, Osmena St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price: 6,340,000.00

LOT 15 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 222 Sqm.
Unit 406 4/F Buenaventura Condominium E. Osmena St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price: 6,285,000.00

LOT 16 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 188 Sqm.
Unit # 605 ,6/F Buenvatura Condominium E, Osmena St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price: 5,833,000.00

LOT 17 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area:
SOLD
Minimum Bid Price:

LOT 18 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 188 Sqm.
Unit # 405, 4/F Buenaventura Condominium Bldg. E. Osmena Cor. Veloso St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price: 5,326,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 355 sqm.
Floor Area: 291 sqm.
Lot No. 3771-B-5 Ocampo Drive, White Road, Inayawan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,133,000.00

LAHUG

LOT 20 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 250 Sqm.
Lot 1319-B-2-C-11, Near La Guardia
Minimum Bid Price: 277,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 500 Sqm.
Lot 19, Near La Guardia
Minimum Bid Price: 553,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 533 Sqm.
Lot 20, Near La Guardia
Minimum Bid Price: 590,000.00

LAPU-LAPU

LOT 23 - CONDO UNIT (STUDIO TYPE)
Floor Area: 50 sqm.
Unit 53-D (Rm505), EGI Condo. Maribago
Minimum Bid Price: 1,710,000.00

LILOAN

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 951 sqm. Floor Area: 177 sqm.
Lot 2624, Brgy.Yati
Minimum Bid Price: 471,000.00

MANDAUE

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 232 sqm. Floor Area: 176 sqm.
Lot 837-C-2-C-2 Hermag Village, Basak
Minimum Bid Price: 1,453,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 950 sqm.
Floor Area: 490 sqm.
Lot 26-B, Greenview Subd., Pagsabungan
Minimum Bid Price: 3,751,000.00

MEDELLIN

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,099 sqm.
Lot 1-C-2 Bangon, Medellin, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 3,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 6,103 sqm.
Lot 1-C-3 Bangon, Medellin, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 995 sqm.
Lot 1-C-4 Bangon, Medellin, Cebu
Minimum Bid Price: 2,250.00

PARDO

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,832 sqm.
Lot 18426-A San Carlos Heights, Quiot
Minimum Bid Price: 3,186,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 6,657 sqm.
Lot No. 19680, Interior Portion, San Carlos Heights, Quiot
Minimum Bid Price: 2,337,000.00

PINAMUNGAHAN

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 201 sqm.
Lot 4-A-I-A Nat'l Highway, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 229,000.00

TABOGON

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 8,798 sqm.
Lot 53 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 510,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,666 sqm. Floor Area: 90 sqm.
Lot 236 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

TALAMBAN

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 700 sqm.
Lot 9 Sunny Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,488,000.00

TALISAY

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500 sqm. Floor Area: 250 sqm.
Lot No. 2306-D Sitio Pangpang, Brgy. San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 787,000.00

TOLEDO

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,886 sqm.
Lot 5 & 7 Blk. 3 New Hospital Rd. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 503,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,150 sqm. Floor Area: 210 sqm.
Cad. Lot No. 767-A-5 Along Brgy. Rd., Tubod
Minimum Bid Price: 1,599,000.00

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes Sts. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites interested bidders to apply for:

Items to Bid for 2004 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Non-Refundable Fee
Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	P15,000,000.00 Not less than 500,000 pcs. At P30.00 per card	November 3, 2004 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	P313,600.00 Not less than 180,229 pcs. At P1.74 per sheet Of Bookpaper	November 3, 2004 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets	P3,644,200.00 Not less than 1,370,000 pcs. At P2.66 per sheet Of OCR paper	November 4, 2004 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods at the Office of the BAC Chairperson, Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero, 2nd floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on **October 18, 2004**. Deadline for submission of registration requirements shall be at 5:00 p.m. on **October 29, 2004**. Issuance of Certification of registration to bidders for procurement of goods shall be on **November 4, 2004**.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on **October 18, 2004** from the Office of the BAC Chairperson with a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. Prospective bidders for the printing and supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets are required to make a presentation of the process in reading the OMR ID/Answer Sheets using their equipment, on **November 4, 2004** at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GRPA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is a prima facie evidence of collusion between the officials or employees of the Commission and/or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition; if the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Chairperson

(PDI–Oct. 16 & 23, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed Bid the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1	400 sq.m. TCT No. 39984 Lot only	Lot No. 518 & 519, San Julian Norte, Vigan, Ilocos Sur	P 180,000.00
2	1,435 sq.m. TCT No. 134778 2 BR, 1 T&B, Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot No. 3615, Cattaran, Solana, Cagayan	P 239,500.00
3	250 sq.m. TCT No. 134777 2 BR, 1 T&B Deteriorating	Lot No. 4497-D, San Quintin Vill., Pallua, Tuguegarao, Cagayan	P 283,100.00
4	194 sq.m. TCT No. 125582 Lot only	Lot No. 2 Blk 4, Guaranteed Homes, Bascaran, Solano, Nueva Viscaya	P 59,600.00
5	300 sq.m. TCT No. 134776 2 BR, 1 T&B, Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot No. 4117-C-3-A, 23 Santol St., San Gabriel Vill., Tuguegarao, Cagayan	P 327,200.00
6	335 sq.m. TCT No. 125332 3 BR, 1T&B, Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot No. 6455-B, Poblacion Solano, Nueva Viscaya	P 816,500.00
7	616 sq.m. TCT No. 326361 3 BR, 1 T&B, Deteriorating One and half-storey	Lot No. 8914, San Isidro, Ilagan, Isabela	P 186,000.00
8	159 sq.m. TCT No. 40170 Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot No. 4 Blk 1, Hilltop Subd. Yagyagan, Sablan, Benguet	P 176,100.00
9	282 sq.m. TCT No. 302143 Lot only	Lot No. 10, Blk 10, Valley Homes, Patul, Santiago City Isabela	P 366,600.00
10	125 sq.m. TCT No. 48210 Lot only	Lot No. 2-A-2-C-3-A, Baccuit Norte, Bauang, La Union	P 187,500.00
11	300 sq.m. TCT No. 331995 2 BR, 1T&B,Fairly maintained bungalow	Lot No. 6-A-2, Silawit, Cauayan, Isabela	P 221,000.00
12	300 sq.m. TCT No. 156488 1 BR, 1T&B, One & Half Storey, Deteriorating	Lot No. 12, Silawit, Cauayan Isabela	P 91,800.00
13	1,265 sq.m. TCT No. 312911 4 BR, 1 T&B Destroyed by typhoon	Lot No. B, Cumu Angadanan, Isabela	P 196,400.00
14	420 sq.m. TCCT No. 312910 Lot only	Lot 1-G, Centro, Cauayan Isabela	P 126,000.00
15	2,140 sq.m. TCT No. 60967 Lot only	Lot No. 1140, Dacalla, Fugu Camalaniugan, Cagayan	P 214,000.00
16	300 sq.m. TCT No. 141835 2 BR, 1 T&B Deteriorating, Bungalow	Lot No. 4482-A, #4 Teachers Vill., Pallua Sur, Tuguegarao Cagayan	P 191,300.00
17	280 sq.m. TCT No. 140038 2 BR, 1 T&B Split level	Lot No. 2-H-2, Panacal Vill., Caggay, Tuguegarao Cagayan	P 247,100.00
18	198 sq.m. TCT No. 141834 2 BR, 1 T&B, Two Storey Fairly maintained	Lot No. 9670-L, #162 Gosi Tuguegarao, Cagayan	P 197,300.00
19	309 sq.m. TCT No. 281254 Lot only	Lot No. 7, Blk. 4, Centro Cauayan, Isabela	P 100,500.00
20	706 sq.m. TCT No. 281255 Lot only	Lot No. 2-d-2-2-p, Mariz Cmpd. Pranze,Cauayan, Isabela	P 494,200.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instructions to Bidders are available at the SSS Baguio Cluster, Harrison Road, Baguio City. Please contact Engr. Ed Flora at Telephone No. (074) 443-3089, 442-2635, 444-8615, 442-8718, 444-2928.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Administrative Division, SSS Baguio Cluster from 8:00 AM to 1:59 PM on 09 **November 2004**. The bids should be labeled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidder's deposit equivalent to at least 30% (if bidder is former owner, their spouses, parents and children) or 10% (if bidder does not fall on the preceding category) of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/U.S. dollar) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to the SSS. As a rule, cash bids shall be preferred over installment bids. An installment bid shall, however, be considered as more advantageous if the installment bid is greater by at least 20% over a cash bid. In case of installment bids, the bid with the shortest payment period shall be preferred unless the difference in the bids is greater by at least 20%, in which case the bid with the longer payment period shall be considered more advantageous to the SSS.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is". The winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable either in cash within 30 days or amortized up to a maximum of 120 months at prevailing interest rate. If bidder opts to amortize, proof of income (ITR, business permit or Certificate of Employment and Compensation) shall be among the documents for submission on bidding date. Upon approval of the sale, the buyer shall issue twelve (12) PDCs covering the first year of amortization and the same number of checks for each succeeding years. Actual expenses or advances made by SSS for foreclosure and consolidation of title shall be added to purchase price of the former owner of his successor-in-interest.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) AVP MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO
Chairperson, Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI - Oct. 23, 2004)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref No. PB040909-AA0118 / PR No.: HRD-04-007689

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR CORPORATE TRANSCO**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Quantity	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
Per Item	Supply and Delivery of Various Medicines	HRD-04-007689	PhP3,438,815.24

1. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **October 2004, 2004 to November 18, 2004** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **2:00 p.m. of November 19, 2004** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **November 05, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 29, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested Small "B" contractors, duly registered with the Government-Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS), to participate in the public bidding for the construction of the following infrastructure projects.

	Project	Contract Duration	Proposed Budget
1.	Boac, Marinduque	4 mos.	P 3,862,378.8
2.	Borongan, Eastern Samar	4 mos.	P 3,750,000.00
3.	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	4 mos.	P 2,880,000.00

The source of funding is SARO No. C-03-06911 dated December 29, 2003.

Interested Contractors shall be required to submit a LETTER OF INTENT, addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for Infrastructure Projects (BAC-Infrastructure), 5th Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone no. 924-47-33 and shall submit for registration, a certified true copy of the following documents (originals to be presented for authentication):

a. G-EPS
b. DTI or SEC Registration Certificate
c. Mayor's permit and Renewal of PCAB Contractor's License as of fiscal year 2004
d. Taxpayer's Identification Number
e. Sworn statement from the prospective bidder that it is not included in the "blacklist" issued by CIAP

Eligibility Forms can be secured from the BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat, 5th Floor, LRA Building, from October 25 to 26, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00)** for each project.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements is on November 4, 2004. Prospective bidders shall present the original documents of all eligibility requirements for authentication purposes. Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of Bid Documents on November 10-12, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00)** for each project.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5th Floor, LRA Building based on the following schedule:

	Project	Date	Time
1.	Boac, Marinduque	November 15, 2004	10:00 a.m.
2.	Borongan, Eastern Samar	- do -	1:30 p.m.
3.	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	- do -	3:00 p.m.

Sealed bids in two (2) envelopes shall be received and opened at the LRA Multi Purpose Hall based on the following schedule:

	Project	Date	Time
1.	Boac, Marinduque	November 26, 2004	10:00 a.m.
2.	Borongan, Eastern Samar	- do -	1:30 p.m.
3.	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	- do -	3:00 p.m.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer that may be considered most advantageous to LRA. The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process

(Sgd.) RONALD A. ORTILE
Chairman, BAC-Infrastructure

(PDI – October 10 & 24, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
GOVERNMENT CENTER, PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
Fax No. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES
FOR NFA REGION VIII

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all interested Private Security Agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of security services for Calendar Year 2005 at NFA Regional Office No. VIII. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into lots with one province treated as one (1) Lot, to wit:

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	NO. OF SG'S	PER ANNUM
1	NORTHERN LEYTE	24	P2,964,329 28
2	SOUTHERN LEYTE	10	1,235,137 20
3	BILIRAN	4	494,054 88
4	WESTERN SAMAR	9	1,111,623 48
5	NORTHERN SAMAR	17	2,099,733 24
6	EASTERN SAMAR	12	1,482,164 64

LIST OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ISSUANCE AT NFA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII AND SAID REQUIREMENTS REGISTRATION CAN BE SUBMITTED TO RBAC SECRETARIAT AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE PAWING, PALO, LEYTE FOR REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION.

Only Registered Private Security Agencies with the NFA will be allowed to apply for eligibility

The eligibility requirements may be secured from the Secretariat Bids and Awards Committee for Security Services (BAC-SS) at the NFA Regional Office, Pawing, Palo, Leyte after payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00). Only those who have pre-qualified and considered eligible by the RBAC and who have paid the Php5,000.00 as Bidding Fee shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Bidding Proper. Hereunder are the schedules:

October 25-Nov. 4, 2004	Issuance of Application Forms for Registration
November 8, 2004 (1500H)	Deadline for submission of application forms and required documents for Registration
October 28-Nov. 12, 2004	Issuance of Certificate of Registration and application for Eligibility to Bid
November 24, 2004 (1500H)	Deadline for submission of application for eligibility and documentary requirements
December 1, 2004 (1300H)	Pre-Bidding Conference at the NFA-R.O. 8 Conference Room, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
December 13, 2004 (9:30H)	Submission and opening of Sealed Bids

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective bidder owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst Regional Manager II
and Chairman-RBAC, NFA-ROVIII

(PDI–Oct 23 & 30, 2004)

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OBITUARIES

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In Loving Memory
on the 28th
Death Anniversary of

Adalia B. Peñaflorida

who passed away on 24 October 1976

Masses will be offered Sunday, 24 October 2004 at the following:

Sanctuario De San Antonio ..... 12:00 noon
Forbes Park
Sanctuario De San Jose ..... 7:15 a.m.
Greenhills
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori ..... 6:00 p.m.
Magallanes
Our Lady of Beautiful Love ..... 6:00 p.m.
Merville
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, *Pototan, Iloilo* ..... 5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church, *La Paz, Iloilo* ..... 5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends & pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT · MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY · REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Memories

"Memory is a way of holding onto the persons you love, the person you are, the love ones you never want to lose."

The **INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS** brings forth – *Memories* – a tabloid-sized supplement to be published on **October 29, 2004** in time for the remembrance of our beloved loved ones.

This supplement will be dedicated to pre-need plans, funeral homes, memorial parks and other product/services related to death care. This endeavor will give you a chance to showcase your product lines and the attributes that your services offer.

AD SIZE	RATES
FULL PAGE	54,862.50
HALF PAGE	27,431.25
¼ PAGE	13,715.63
1/8 PAGE	6,857.81

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Should you have questions please contact Ms. Adela Mendoza, our Account Executive, at 912-9008 to 11 or e-mail us at agarcia@inquirer.com.ph.

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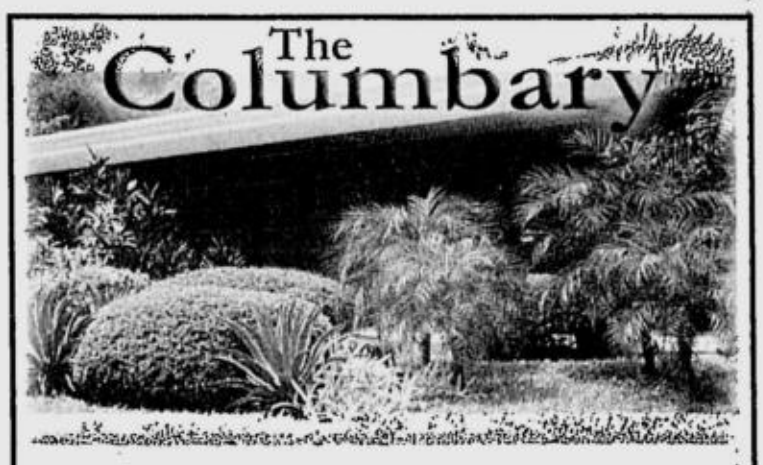

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Above is one of its memorial wall vaults. Visit us on our Open House on October 23, 2004 and avail of big discount. For inquiries, call 425.1508 to 09 or 426.6965 or email rdc@thecolumbary.com.ph

So Sadly Missed, So Lovingly Remembered on the 20th Death Anniversary of

DOMINGO B. PAGUIO, SR.
of Pilar, Bataan
May 12, 1920 – October 23, 1984

Masses will be offered on October 23, 2004 at:

Nuestra Sra. del Pilar, Pilar, Bataan ..... 5:45 a.m.
St. John Brebauf, Niles, Ill. ..... 7:30 a.m.
Transfiguration Church, Chicago, Ill. ..... 8:15 a.m.
St. Dominic Church, Abucay, Bataan ..... 5:00 p.m.

We, the family, request relatives, friends and pious readers to remember him in their prayers. Thank you and God bless.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

CLASSIFIEDS

Biking Congressman at Upclose & Personal at IBC 13

HON. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora. Compostela Valley Province representative was the featured guest in Upclose & Personal with Marissa del Mar last Tuesday, Oct. 19. 11:30 p.m. at IBC 13.

Award-winning television host Marissa del Mar interviewed the young and energetic lawmaker who has been noted for his commuting by bicycle in attending to his legislative work in Congress and for his austere way of life. A man dearly loved by his constituents, he bared to Marissa his personal side.

Now on its second year "Upclose and Personal with Marissa Del Mar" has consistently earned good reviews for its information and public service format.

It is produced by Millicent Productions, Inc., the show has gained mass appeal and acceptance as it has elevated to a different level the meaning of public information and service in Philippine broadcast journalism. It features the positive side of life, especially those people from all walks of life who are worth emulating – be it the ordinary man or high-profile businessmen, entrepreneurs, industrialists or government people – who through sheer patience, persistence and dedication to work, as well as, having good education, have been able to overcome hardships and struggles in life to attach their goals.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2004-277	1 lot Two (2) Years Maintenance Service Agreement of 126 units IBM Diebold Automated Tellering Machine (ATMs) Period Covered: January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006	P 9,631,440.00 or P3,185.00/ATM Machine Month	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirement is scheduled on November 17, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on November 5, 2004, 10:00 AM at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI – October 23 & 29, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zamboanga Sibugay
Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Malangas

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
ZSNCB-2004-008-001

October 23, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *International Bank for Reconstruction Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

   Construction of 1unit-6CL (Two Storey) School Building in Malangas Central Elementary School, Brgy. Poblacion, Malangas, ZS

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Municipal Engineers Office with address at Brgy. Poblacion, Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay for a non-refundable fee of Php2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Malangas on or before **10:00 AM, November 23, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on **2:00 PM, November 9, 2004** at the Municipal Hall Building, Malangas, Zamboanga, Sibugay.

(Sgd.) **SOL AVE MATUGAS**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 23, 2004)

'Success Essentials for Managers and Supervisors' seminar

THE HARRY Pound Company (THPC) will hold the "Success Essentials for Managers and Supervisors" seminar on Oct. 29, at the Westin Philippine Plaza from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature three speakers headed by the company's founder, Harry Pound, Cecille L. Ayllon, THPC's director for training and development and a video presentation of international motivational speaker, John Foppe. The seminar will focus on crucial and up-to-date management topics outlining the goals and benefits of leadership in these challenging times. The seminar also promotes networking among leaders from different organizations so that they can form alliances and collaborate for growth. Practical applications and practice are critical to learning. This seminar is unique because it includes case analysis and best practices proven to influence the participants' profitable growth. This learning opportunity is open to all business practitioners from all industries that would like to benefit from the newest successful growth blueprints for 21st century business. For details and inquiries, please call: 404-2753

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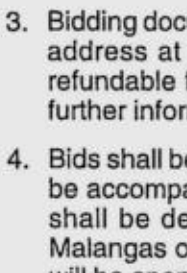

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Republic of the Philippines
PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
(University of the City of Manila)
Intramuros, Manila

PLM – BIDDING and AWARDS COMMITTEE (PLM-BAC)
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to pre-qualify and participate in a sealed bidding for the project: Purchase of 70 sets of computers and peripherals for Laboratory 3 and 4 of the New Information Technology Center of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

Pre-qualification documents may be obtained from the PLM-BAC Secretariat Office (Tel. No. 528-4592), after paying the corresponding participation fee of *PhP 200.00* (non-refundable) beginning October 23, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Duly accomplished forms together with the required pre-qualification statements/documents are to be submitted not later than 3:00 p.m of November 8, 2004.

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA N. SANTOS
Chairman

(PDI – October 23, 2004)

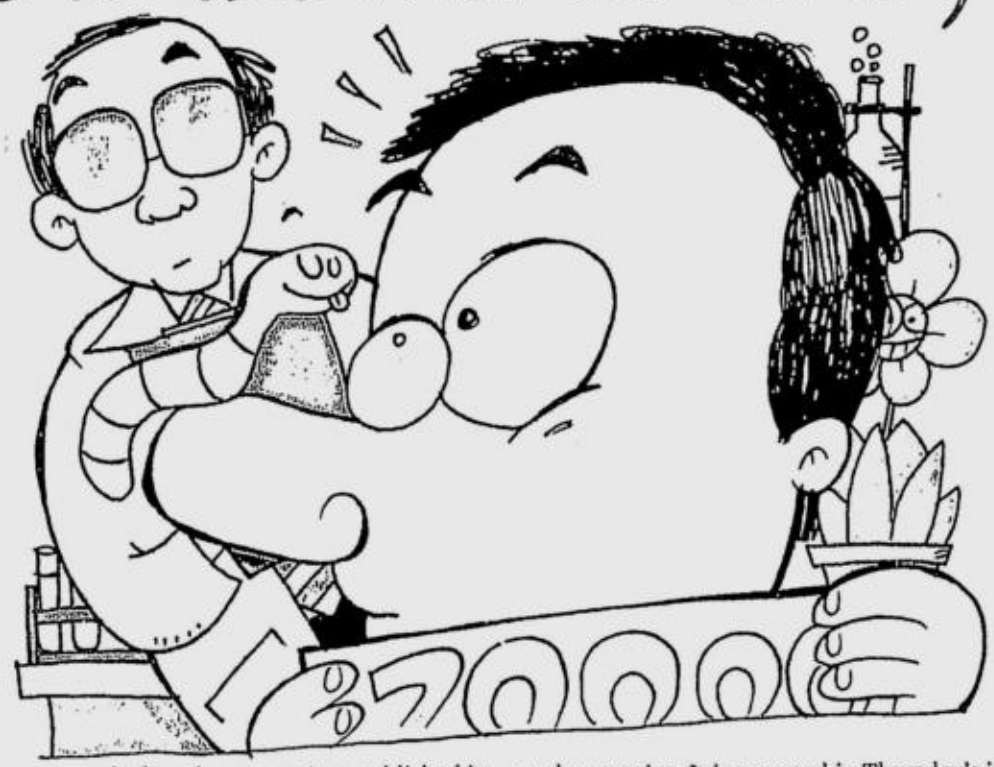
E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Estimate for number of human genes now down to 20,000



NEW YORK—How many genes does it take to make a human? Only about the same number it takes for a small flowering plant or a tiny worm, says a new estimate that has been sharply reduced from just three years ago.

"We [humans] don't look very impressive in the competition," said Dr. Francis Collins, co-author of the new analysis by the international group that decoded the human genome.

The new estimate is 20,000 to 25,000 genes, a drop from the 30,000 to 40,000 the same group of scientists published in 2001.

By comparison, the tiny roundworm *C. elegans*, a favorite research subject, has around 19,500 genes. A small flowering plant in the mustard family, *Arabidopsis*, has about 27,000.

What matters more

But the complexity of the human body arises from more than just its genetic parts list, experts said.

"It's not just the number of genes that matters," said another co-author, Eric Lander of the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "It really is how nature uses these genes."

Scientists have long speculated about how many genes people have. Some have put it at 100,000 or more, and the genome project's initial figure fell in the low end of estimates when it was announced.

In a betting pool among scientists, the average guess before the consortium published its estimate in 2001 was about 66,000 genes. Afterward, the average dropped to about 44,000.

Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, put his money on about 48,000 genes when the contest began. That's about twice the new estimate.

"Oh well," he said this week, "live and learn."

Like letters in words

Like in the betting pool, the new estimate deals only with genes that tell cells how to make proteins. It is reported in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature by the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium, which had determined the sequence of nearly all of the three billion-plus chemical building blocks that make up the human DNA code.

Certain sequences of these building blocks make up genes, just like certain sequences of letters create words.

When the consortium produced its 2001 gene count estimate, it still had many gaps in the DNA sequence it had determined. Now the scientists have closed those gaps as much as they could with current technology.

Just copies

The finished version reveals that many DNA sequences originally counted as genes were actually nonfunctioning copies of real genes and that sometimes parts of the same gene were counted as two genes, Lander said.

Scientists said the new range appeared to be firm, especially with 20,000 at the lower end, because laboratory work has independently demonstrated that 19,599 genes existed.

Gerald Rubin, a gene expert at the University of California, Berkeley, who did not participate in the analysis, said the result was "as good a guess as one can make at this point.... I think the estimate is unlikely to change very much."

"We just have to get used to the fact that we don't have many more genes than a worm," Rubin said.

Multiple proteins

So how can humans be so complex with relatively few genes?

In comparison to simpler organisms, humans benefit more from genes that turn out multiple proteins rather than one, and from complex proteins that do more than one job, Collins said.

And anyway, a lot of biological complexity is based not on individual proteins but on combinations, which can create a lot of variety from the proteins found in people, he said.

Lander said he was not concerned that the number of human genes had turned out to be so limited.

"To the contrary, I think it's great news," he said, "because what it means is we already know a lot about most human genes." *AP*

110 versus 220 volts

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN THE UNITED States and Japan, 110 to 120 volts is still the standard, while the rest of the world, including the Philippines, is mostly using 220 to 240 volts. Arnel Sugay [lucis63@yahoo.com] has a perfectly reasonable question: Is 110 volts better than 220 volts?

Neither voltage system is better than the other, and in fact, transformers and converters ensure that running the DVD player, video camera or TV is practically interchangeable in any system. In fact, most laptop computers are now dual voltage, meaning they are designed to operate well with either voltage system.

To check whether a device is dual voltage, look at the specifications. If it says something like "Input: AC 100V-240, 50/60 Hz," then it is dual voltage. AC stands for alternating current, which is the standard around the world. 100V-240 means that the device can go from 100 to 240 volts and can run from 50 to 60 hertz or cycles.

What are cycles?

Cycles are the number of times the electric current alternates each second. In the United States, the current alternates 60 times per second, which is associated with 110 volts. (Now you know why the United States has 110 volts.)

In the Philippines, the current alternates 50 times each second, which is associated with 220 volts.

Perhaps what is more important than voltage (from a practical point of view, for instance, that of a frequent traveler) is the cycles per cycle. Most converters and transformers change voltage, but do not change cycles, thus you should be aware whether your device will still work (even with the converter). Most devices that are affected by cycle differences come equipped with motors such as turntables or clocks. They run faster or slower than usual, depending on the cycle difference.

What converters are needed? This depends on what transformation is being done. If you have a US DVD player with a 110-volt system, and you want to use it here, then our 220-volt current has to be stepped down. On the other hand, if you bring along your 220-volt computer for use during vacation in the United States, you need a "step-up" converter.

Converter vs transformer

A converter and a transformer are different from each other. If your device is an electric appliance with a high-power motor, such as a hair dryer or iron, then you need a converter. For your computer or VCR, which uses electric chips, you need a transformer.

When in doubt, use a transformer, since electric appliances and electronic devices both work with a transformer (even if, as we have seen, only electric appliances use a converter). Transformers can also run continuously, while converters operate for a couple of hours at most.

Christopher Gleize of www.laptoptravel.com goes into more detail: "What's the difference between a converter and a transformer? It lies in how the device 'converts' voltage current. AC power is supplied in alternating bursts that are in a shape called 'sine wave.'

"To reduce 220V to 110V, for example, a converter chops off the sine waves in half whereas a transformer alters the length of the sine waves. This is a critical difference because electronic devices require a full sine wave for operation; thus they can operate only with a transformer. Electric appliances function with either a full or a half sine wave, and so can be operated with either a converter or a transformer.

Larger, heavier, more expensive

"The converter's short-term use and 'chopping' off of sine waves are relatively simple and compact functions, whereas the transformer's continuous use and alteration of sine waves are relatively sophisticated functions and require more space. As a result, transformers are generally larger, heavier and much more expensive than converters.

"Thus if you are going to travel with an electronic device, you should purchase one that is dual voltage, if available. Most converters and transformers available to the consumer do not alter or convert the 'cycles,' shown as 'Hz' on most devices. Although cycle differences do not cause a problem with many devices, they do impact on some devices with motors such as clocks and turntables."

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

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Have coffee, can function

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

DURING ORIENTATION week in my first year in college, we were sent out on a camping trip with other incoming freshmen so we would all know a few people by the time classes started. Some groups hiked for several miles; our group rode a bus to campgrounds that had working restrooms, a lake and a volleyball court.

With us were several people who had been raised to consider Starbucks coffee as mother's milk. Our camping guides took our watches and told us there would be no coffee available. The Seattle crew held out as long as they could. The night after we arrived, they left the campsite, raided the camp guides' supply cabin, and came away with a small bag full of ground coffee.

Coffee bandit

The following morning, undaunted by the fact that we didn't have a coffeemaker but were absolutely unwilling to continue camping without some caffeine, one of the coffee bandits boiled some water in a pail, poured the coffee grains into the water, and began swirling the pail in a fairly rapid circular motion like a Ferris wheel.

After several minutes he lowered the pail, dipped a cup into the mix, sampled it and smiled in delight at the familiar sensation of coffee in his system. Although he had come across as being very laid-back the past couple of days, he had become more enthusiastic about the activities we had left once he had had his coffee.

His fellow coffee addicts also became more energetic and involved with the group after they had their own steaming mugs.

It should come as no surprise to find that those who ingest large doses of caffeine on a regular basis are also the ones who suffer most from being deprived of it.

Mental disorder

But how much coffee does one have to drink in order to be considered as someone in caffeine withdrawal?

An 8-ounce can of Coke has 30 mg of caffeine. Consumer Reports says an 8-ounce serving of Red Bull has 70 mg of caffeine. To estimate how much caffeine you ingest daily, try the Caffeine Calculator (www.sleepfoundation.org/caffeine.cfm) website.

Caffeine withdrawal may soon appear in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) will also be updating the symptoms of this illness, thanks to a paper that appeared in the Sept. 21 issue of the journal Psychopharmacology.

The paper was written by Laura Juliano, a psychologist at the American University in Washington, D.C., and Roland Griffiths, a professor of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. It doesn't discuss new research as much as it reviews nearly 70 studies done in the past 40 years on the effects of caffeine withdrawal.

The studies looked at the effects of abstaining from caffeine for various periods of time, the effects of varying the amount of caffeine prior to abstaining from it, and the effects of ingesting caffeine once more after a period of abstinence.

Withdrawal symptoms

In all these studies, the participants were asked to describe how they felt throughout the trials. Juliano and Griffiths took these answers and considered the 10 most common responses as symptoms of true caffeine withdrawal.

The symptoms include headache, fatigue, decreased alertness, depression, discontent, flu-like symptoms, nausea and muscle stiffness. In one particular study the authors cited, medical students who ingested over 600 mg of caffeine a day before abstaining from the stimulant reported having headaches "as extreme in severity as the subjects had ever experienced."

According to Juliano and Griffiths, someone who regularly ingests at least 100 mg of caffeine a day and then stops will suffer withdrawal symptoms within the first 24 hours of abstaining. The symptoms can last up to nine days if caffeine continues to be withheld.

Interestingly, they also noted that one study demonstrated that 25 mg of caffeine a day was enough to prevent some withdrawal symptoms. And that ingesting caffeine almost immediately halted all withdrawal symptoms.

Given the effects of caffeine withdrawal on a person's mental, emotional and physical well-being, one has to wonder why it's legal to become addicted to it. And one may also wonder how to stop being addicted without going through withdrawal.

(Next week: a look at the benefits of coffee and how to go through caffeine withdrawal without dealing with the symptoms.)

Reducing bone fracture risk of postmenopausal women

By Charles E. Buban

THE HORMONE estrogen declines as women enter menopause. And as their estrogen level drops, women encounter problems like hot flushes, irregular menstrual periods, changes in cholesterol levels that could predispose them to heart disease, and bone loss that could lead to osteoporosis.

"One of the most important role of estrogen is to stimulate the production of new bones as part of the process by which the quality of the bones is maintained," says Dr. Gary Sy of Life Extension Medical Center, a clinic specializing in geriatric medicine.

Sy says that although bones naturally weaken with age in both men and women starting at around 40, women lose bone material more rapidly after menopause, making them more prone to osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis leads to an increased risk of bone fractures, especially in the area of the spine, wrists and hips, which may require hospitalization or major surgery, the doctor says.

Alternative

Experts have thus searched for estrogen alternatives known as selective estrogen-receptor modifiers (SERMs) that interact with the cell receptor for estrogen and give beneficial properties of estrogen, especially to the bones.

One of these SERMs was raloxifene (Evista), which has been found to stimulate target sites in bone tissue.

Researchers studied 7,705 women to determine if raloxifene therapy had an effect on vertebral and nonvertebral fractures in postmenopausal women. The three-year Multiple Outcomes of Raloxifene Evaluation (MORE) study randomly gave participants either 60 or 120 milligrams of the drug each day or a placebo. The women also received calcium and vitamin D supplements.

Researchers found that raloxifene increased bone mineral density by 2 percent to 3 percent, and reduced the incidence of new vertebral fractures by 30 percent to 50 percent.

Less than estrogen

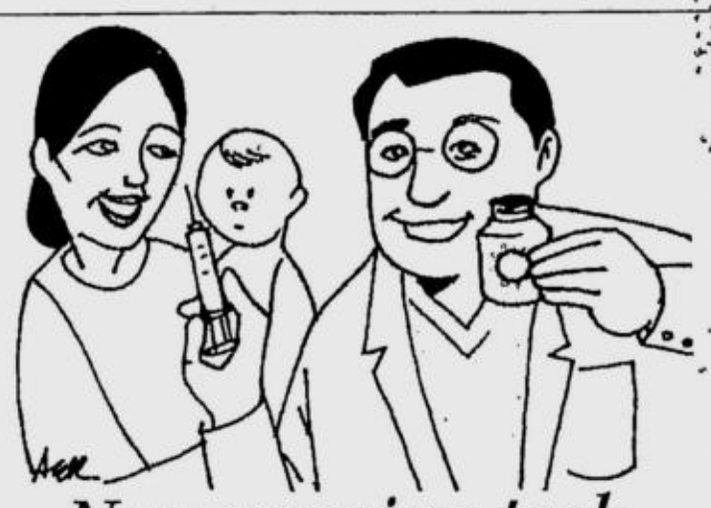
Another group of investigators said such increase over the short term was impressive in postmenopausal women despite the fact that the increase produced by raloxifene in all bone sites was somewhat less than that of estrogen.

Raloxifene is preferably used only by women who are five years past their menopause. They must first discuss with their doctors how to take the drug as well as its related risks.

Sy suggests that postmenopausal women exercise regularly, quit smoking, drink only moderate amounts of alcohol, eat a well-balanced diet and take extra calcium and vitamin D.

He adds: "Osteoporosis is largely preventable for most people. Having regular exercise is the single most important action anyone can take to improve the strength of her bones."

Walking and aerobics are some forms of exercise the doctor suggests.



New vaccine tech developed

LONDON—British scientists have taken tips from Mother Nature to develop a new technology that could deliver cheaper, life-saving vaccines without refrigeration to millions of children in remote areas of the world.

About two million youngsters die every year from vaccine-preventable diseases like measles. And each year, up to 50 percent of vaccines are ruined because of temperature damage.

The stable-liquid vaccine technology devised by researchers at Cambridge Biostability Ltd. (CBL) eliminates the need for costly refrigeration.

"It could revolutionize how we deliver vaccines in the developing world," said Dr. Stewart Tyson, of Britain's Department for International Development, which will provide £950,000 ($1.7 million) for the project.

"This technology offers the potential to deliver vaccines outside the cold chain," he told reporters.

Keeping vaccines potent

Vaccines need to be refrigerated all the time to keep them potent. The cold chain adds an estimated cost of $200 million to $300 million each year, according to the World Health Organization.

Removing the cold chain alone would enable the vaccination of an extra 10 million children within existing budgets.

Public health experts estimate that almost one-third of the 132 million children born each year are not reached by routine vaccination

The new technology involves drying the vaccine molecules and embedding them in tiny sugar beads or glass spheres. Each sphere is inert and absolutely stable without the need for refrigeration.

The process is based on a natural process that enables some plants to remain in a desiccated state for hundreds of years and then return to life.

"Our technology is stolen from Nature," said Dr. Bruce Roser, the chief scientist of CBL.

The spheres are suspended in stable, injectible liquids and will not release the vaccines until they are dissolved in the body following injection.

Slow-release vaccines

CBL, which has tested the technology in animal trials, said it also offered the possibility of slow-release vaccines, which could eliminate the need for boosters.

It will collaborate on a multiple vaccine against five of the most virulent childhood diseases. It will be manufactured by Panacea Biotec, a leading Indian biotechnology company.

It also plans to license the technology to vaccine companies. In addition to childhood vaccinations, Roser said the system could be useful for the military and emergency response teams to store vaccines so they would be prepared for outbreaks of disease.

Reuters

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Replacing dentures

HOW often should you go to the dentist to have dentures replaced?—Sylvia T.

You should see your dentist every six months to have your remaining teeth checked. But usually in about two years, your dentures would need a reline. In five years, it's best to replace your old ones because your bone changes in form by then.

It's also a good idea to have a spare especially if your dentures involve your front teeth. A good-looking old denture can act as a spare. That way if there are any repairs to be done, you can wear your old one while the new one is being repaired in the laboratory.

Food, drug safety forum scheduled Tuesday

IN LINE with the celebration of Consumer Welfare Month, the interagency ConsumerNet is holding a symposium on Oct. 26 on quality and safety of food and drugs for Filipino consumers.

The forum, slated at the Power Training Center, National Power Corp. on BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, will have Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit as keynote speaker. Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. will give the opening remarks and an overview of the symposium.

ConsumerNet secretariat head Jaime Lasaro Olmos of the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection said Chowking, San Miguel Corp., Jollibee and Pfizer supported the meeting.

Other resource speakers include Dr. Alicia Lustre of the National Food Authority who will talk about "Food safety responsibility of regulatory agencies of the Department of Agriculture," Jorge Mateo of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System on "Ensuring safety and potability of piped drinking water," and Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri Jr. on "The role of local governments in food safety and quality in the market."

ConsumerNet is a network of government agencies and local government units in Metro Manila established in 1998 to protect the rights and promote the welfare of Filipino consumers.

Is being a military general a risk factor for sleep apnea?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

IN THE FIRST part of my discussion last week on the causes of high blood pressure, I said obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) was a cause of secondary hypertension (SH).

I recently received this text message: "Is being a general in the military a risk factor for OSA? Is it true that it can be fatal? If that's so, I hope all corrupt politicians and military personnel have it."

I'll take that as a serious query, which I should promptly answer.

Military generals cannot claim exclusivity to this medical problem. Anyone who is obese or has obstruction of the nasal airway can have it. These people snore a lot, have intermittent short episodes of stopping breathing (apnea) while sleeping, and hence are sleepy even during daytime.

Whether it is fatal or not depends on the concomitant problems. OSA is actually a syndrome, a cluster of medical problems and complications. One does not die of OSA itself (especially when one is awake). Left untreated, however, OSA could cause complications on the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys and other vital organs.

Many active people have OSA. With proper treatment, they can live normal lives.

Continuous medication

I received another query from a housewife who was worried about her husband, a 51-year-old corporate executive diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis, a multiorgan disorder with severe arthritis particularly of the back as one of its features.

He also has an on-and-off painful and severe inflammation of the left eye that has affected his vision. He has to be continuously maintained on painkillers, including steroids.

Can continuous intake of anti-inflammatory pills cause cardiovascular complications such as high blood pressure?

Drug-induced hypertension is one of the causes of SH. Steroids and nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs are probable culprits. There recently was a voluntary withdrawal of one of these drugs, rofecoxib, because of an increase in heart attacks and strokes among those who continuously took it for 18 months.

Life, however, would be so miserable for patients with arthritis and other inflammatory conditions if they did not take these pills.

We usually do not recommend prolonged continuous intake of these drugs, but in some instances wherein the patients could not afford to skip a dose or two, there is not much of a choice but to give these medications constantly.

A physician must supervise the drug administration and should give the smallest dose needed to relieve the symptoms. If the blood pressure goes up, antihypertensive treatment has to be maintained, too.

Other drugs that can cause SH are antirejection drugs like cyclosporine, which are given after an organ transplant.

Oral contraceptive pills and hormone replacement therapy for postmenopausal women might also have a mild hypertensive effect, but they have not really been shown to increase the risk of deaths or heart attacks (if women smokers over 35 are excluded).

MEDICAL FILES

Nicotine, caffeine

Nicotine in cigarettes and cigars causes transient (30 minutes or less) increase in blood pressure. Because patients who smoke usually have a cigarette just before coming to the physician's office, blood pressure should be rechecked after 30 minutes if initial readings are elevated.

Although caffeine in coffee can raise blood pressure acutely, tolerance develops rapidly, and there appears to be no direct relationship between caffeine intake and chronic hypertension.

Chronic overuse of alcohol is a potentially reversible cause of hypertension.

Other causes of SH are bad kidneys (renal parenchymal disease) wherein the kidneys' ability to excrete salt and excess fluid is impaired. As kidney damage progresses, other problems such as overactivity of the parathyroid gland and increased erythropoietin production develop, exacerbating the hypertension.

Pregnancy

During the third trimester of pregnancy, a small percentage of women develop preeclampsia (pregnancy-induced hypertension). It has an incompletely understood mechanism, possibly initiated by inadequate blood supply to the developing placenta, and occasionally can develop immediately after delivery.

Preeclampsia is characterized by a significant increase in blood pressure and excess protein in the urine. Left untreated, it could lead to serious, even deadly complications for the baby and the mother. After the baby is born, blood pressure usually returns to normal levels within several days to several weeks.

Other causes of SH are tumors in the adrenal glands (small glands perched on both kidneys). Surgical removal of these tumors can normalize blood pressure although some patients will still require maintenance pills.

Jerry Liao's
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The Speaker

Jerry Liao has been in the I.T. industry for the past 22 years as an I.T. and media practitioner. A certified Microsoft Office specialist, he has interviewed I.T. luminaries like Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, Sun CEO Scott McNealy, and Intel CEO Craig Barrett, among others.

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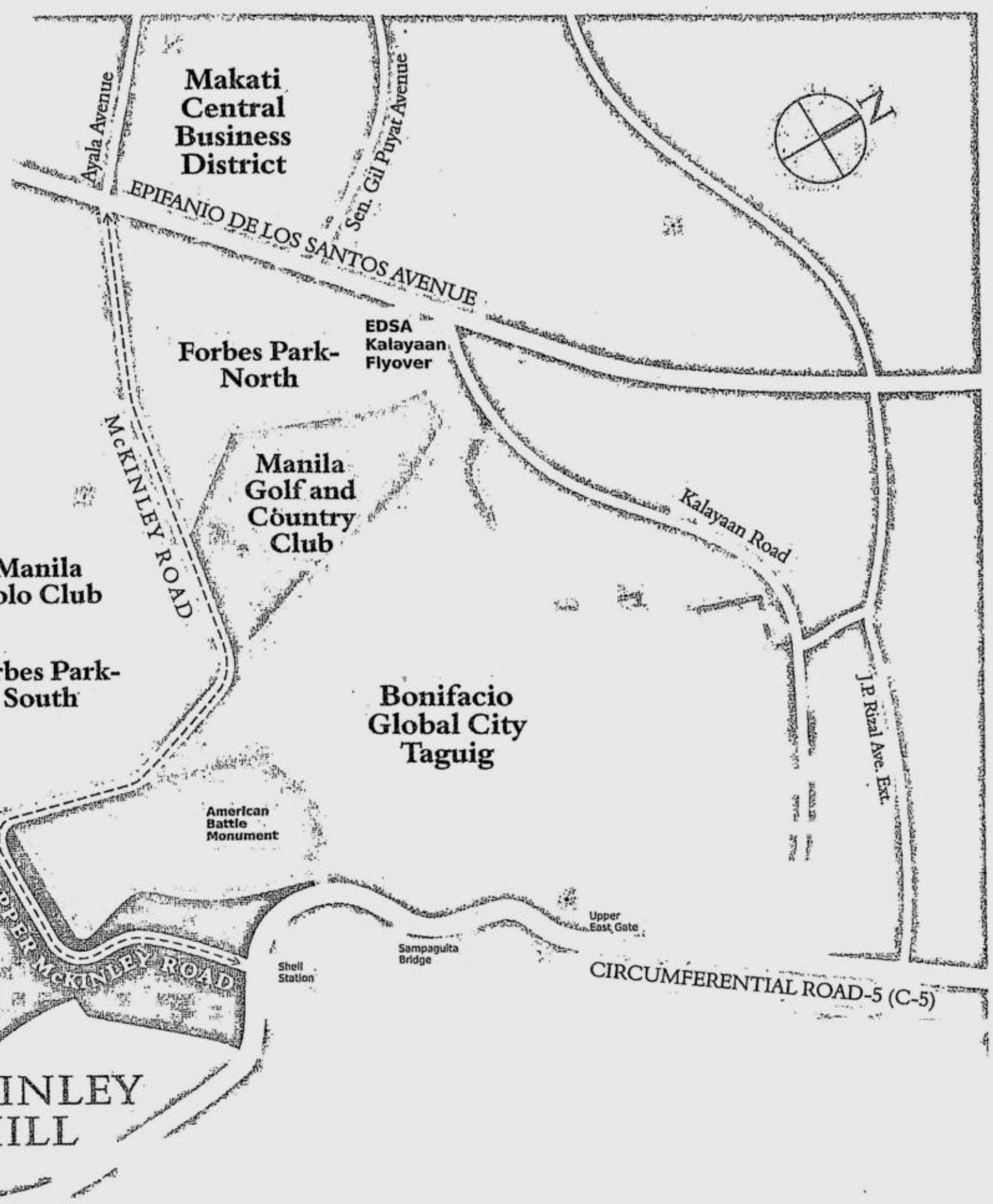

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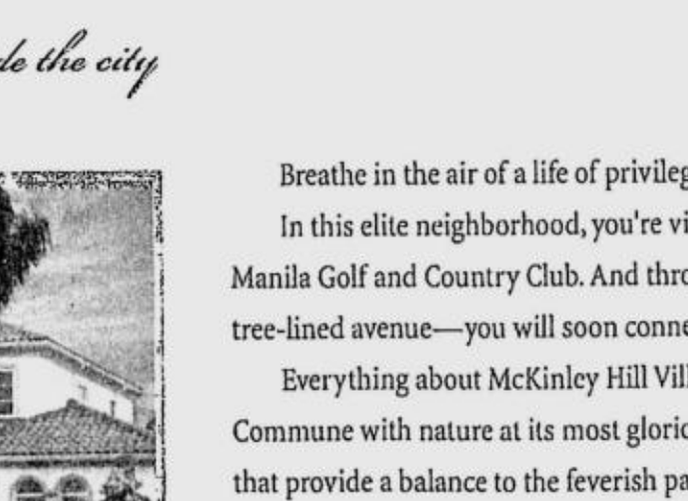

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

The home of the future features state-of-the-art home electronic appliances where a single unified remote control will be the key interface linking household appliances, audiovisual equipment and home servers

IN THE NEAR future, TVs will not only provide entertainment but information as well.

Looking at tomorrow's homes today

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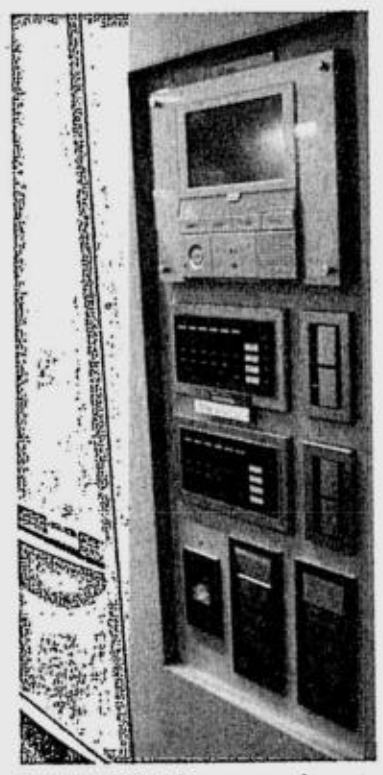
Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

WHAT will the home of the future be like?

For Kunio Nakamura, president of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., it will be one that features state-of-the-art home electronic appliances where a single, unified remote control will be the key interface linking household appliances, audiovisual equipment and home servers.

"Japan already has most of the pieces it needs to achieve just that," Nakamura said before participants in the recently concluded Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies (Ceatec) Japan 2004 held at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, just outside Tokyo.

Matsushita, the world's biggest maker of consumer electronics, is among the 700 that showcased their latest products at the Ceatec Japan, one of the world's premier electronics and information technology trade exhibitions.



THE HEART of tomorrow's homes will be similar to this central control panel.

Solid base

Nakamura predicted that with the basic functions already being served today, Japan has a solid base for such services by 2010.

Said Nakamura: "Japanese companies are already developing networked DVD recorders and players, TVs and other devices that enable people to watch, record, download and control different devices in different rooms. But the switch from watching analogue TV together with the increasing willingness of Japanese households to download digital content is now also driving a move for more people to treat their home PCs as TV-centric entertainment devices."

Digital broadcasting, which will become nationwide in Japan by 2006, will also drive new functionality in the country's mobile phones, he predicted.

"These devices will become more useful, providing new form of entertainment and interactive features," he added.

Remote control, monitoring

Nakamura said household members would even be able to use these mobile phones to allow remote control, and remote monitoring of their household systems whenever they are outside.

"Integrated circuit tags will become the hidden network fabric to wirelessly link objects as diverse as vegetables bought in the supermarket to what has been thrown in the garbage," he added.

In the process of creating a

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MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT
This is a conceptual rendition of a mixed-use development with residential lofts above retail areas and a central park. Privacy is achieved by having separate access for residential and retail areas.

New urbanism

By Marcos R. de Guzman Jr.

COMMENTARY

HOW would it feel like living in a place where everything you need is just a few steps away? You need not wake up very early in the morning to get to work. You could have breakfast with your loved ones. Your kids may choose to bike to school. You have a choice of a dozen dishes, or the time to cook one yourself. You can spend more time with your kids and avoid the stress of commuting. You even have time to read a good book or go home for lunch on a weekday!

Due to the high cost of land, people are forced to live farther and farther away from the city centers, thereby contributing to traffic congestion, lack of parking space, pollution, etc. But should it remain this way?

Addressing this problem is the greatest factor in shaping the places in which we live. In a fast-paced world, needs are continuously being created and must be met. More affordable and logical choices are being offered to the homemakers for them to achieve a healthier quality of personal and family life.

This is called the new urbanism.

There is now a rise in mixed-use development wherein commercial, business, entertainment, learning and health institutions, as well as places of worship, are intertwined with the residential areas. Walking and the pedestrian are given more importance than ever before. A healthy lifestyle is being promoted through gyms, areas for sports, open spaces and a "walkable" pollution-free environment. One can now step out of one's home to shop, dine, study, worship or even work—all within a reasonable distance.

This is now the objective of many developers. And with the developments in information and communication, establishing a home office and subscribing to multiple options in entertainment and learning have never been easier.

Some real estate developments have gone to the extent of having all the conveniences of community living literally beneath your own private residential space. However, great care is taken that one's privacy and comfort are still assured.

Some housing developments have adopted the concept of having totally separate vehicular and pedestrian accesses. The main entrance of the house is in front while the garage and service entrance are found at the rear.

In newer developments, the concept of the workplace or business space juxtaposed to the residence has again become acceptable. This idea is nothing new, however. It is typical for our Filipino-Chinese community in Binondo, where you find the work place at the lower level and the family home directly above it.

How far this revolution in city living will go no one can tell. But the response from developers has been to seek the convenience and comfort of the increasingly sophisticated urban dweller. Where time is as precious as money, opportunities for working and relaxing, business and pleasure, health and wealth, must be equally accessible. Giving the homeowner enough time to do all these is the battle cry of New Urbanism.

(Architect Marcos R. de Guzman Jr. is the managing partner of Marcos de Guzman Architecture Network. He has designed fast-selling projects for the leading real estate developers in the country, particularly Ayala Land, Inc., Brittany Corp., and Filinvest Land, among others. His e-mail address: arkinet@email.com.ph.)

High demand for office space at Bonifacio Global City

INTEREST in Bonifacio Global City as an office address of choice is heightening with the increased pace of development in the area.

Jun Bisnar, head of commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., said the firm has been receiving a steady stream of inquiries from companies wanting to relocate to the fast emerging business district. "But Bonifacio Technology Center is already 100 percent leased so we have had to turn down many offers," he added.

FBDC-owned Bonifacio Technology Center is one of the two office buildings currently located in Bonifacio Global City. Among its major tenants are HatchAsia.com and Vocative Systems Inc. The other office building is Net One, owned by 19-1 Realty and also fully occupied. Multinational and IT firms including Wrigley's, Tetra Pak and Allied Telesis are also located at this building.

Ideal site

According to Bisnar, FBDC is currently negotiating with various multinational companies interested in locating their offices in Bonifacio Global City. It is considering "build-to-suit" arrangements to accommodate these international firms, including some that are in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

Bisnar observed that Bonifacio Global City is expected to emerge as an ideal site for corporate offices and BPO centers. The BPOs, dominated by call centers, require high-speed transmission of huge volumes of voice and data through a fiber optic network, which is available in Bonifacio Global City.

Optimistic

Bisnar is optimistic that in the near future more office space catering to various industries and businesses will also become available particularly as the real estate industry picks up. He added that of the 35 commercial lots recently sold following the takeover of the Ayala-Campos group, owners of 10 lots stated that they intended to construct office buildings on their property. Of the 10, five indicated that they would begin construction in one to two years time while the rest had a three- to five-year timeline.

"We don't expect to wait very long for Bonifacio Global City to be widely acknowledged as one of the country's premiere business districts," he stated.

Bisnar expects Bonifacio Global City to attract offices, especially BPOs, because of its strategic location in Metro Manila and the accreditation of its E-Square area with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. In the call center sector alone, 300,000 seats are expected to be created in the next few years. Second to India in business process outsourcing in volume, the Philippines expects to capture a significant share of the world call center jobs due to the availability of high-quality manpower with English proficiency, facility in adapting to various cultures and the ability to cope with fast-paced technological developments.

Prepared

Bonifacio Global City is prepared for the eventual rise of office buildings with commercial and retail facilities as well as a host of various residential developments already in place. When choosing places of residence and entertainment, office workers will thus have a wide range of choices.

In preparation for the anticipated increased demand for office and commercial space, FBDC is reviewing Bonifacio Global City's master plan and looking over various systems including the provision of adequate public transportation.

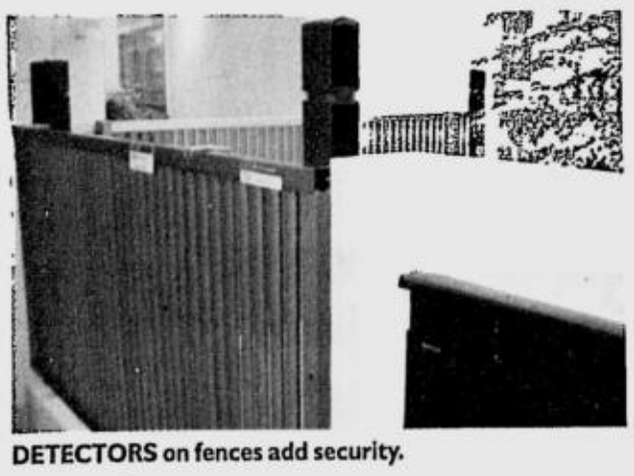
"We expect Bonifacio Global City to serve as the natural extension of the Makati Business District given its proximity to the country's financial center," said Bisnar. "Many of the prestigious office buildings to be built in the future will probably be located here," he added.

DEMAND for office space at Bonifacio Global City is high but buildings in the area are fully leased out.

Looking at tomorrow's ...

From page B1

ONE will soon communicate with neighbors without actually meeting them face to face.



DETECTORS on fences add security.

ubiquitous network society, Nakamura reminded that the industry must be committed to privacy protection as well as each company's intellectual property, and must strive to solve the digital divide, which is existing even within Japan's tech-savvy population.

The phrase "digital divide" refers to the gap that exists between those who have access to the Internet and those who do not.

Solving digital divide

For its part, Matsushita opened in September 2002 the Panasonic Center in Tokyo to invite visitors and get their opinion on how to solve the digital divide.

Within the center, virtual products of all sorts are exhibited to offer visitors opportunities to experience life in using the latest technologies and equipment.

On the building's second floor, the center exhibits home appliances designed for the near future (they will be made available commercially between 2005 and 2010).

These appliances include an automatic rice cooker, a refrigerator wired to the Internet and a toilet that gives users an automatic health checkup.

Construction of modern park in Clark starts

THE CONSTRUCTION of the P50-million world-class theme park at the main gate of Clark Special Economic Zone is underway, officials of Clark Development Corp. announced this week.

CDC president Emmanuel Y. Angeles said the transformation of the 12-hectare Bayanihan Park into a modern family destination is part of CDC's commitment to create a world-class theme park for the residents of not only Metro Clark area but also for Pampanga, Tarlac and nearby provinces.

New park

Angeles said the new park at the north side of Clark's main gate will be developed and funded by the Premier Central Inc., holding company of mall giant Shoemart.

Concrete pouring ceremonies for the park will commence on Oct. 18 and completion is expected before the end of the year, he added.

Vice president Romeo Dyoco of the business development and customer services group said among the facilities that would be constructed are the jogging lanes, playgrounds, recreation activity courts, international gardens, freedom park, multipurpose area where the Salakot structure would be transferred, public transport terminal and huge parking areas for public and private vehicles.

Also included in the project is a traffic improvement plan that involves the widening of First Street in Barangay Balibago in Angeles City. First Street will be used as the entry point for inbound vehicles to Clark while the Roxas Highway (formerly Mitchell Highway) will serve as the exit point and a venue for the city walk, he added.

Commercial stalls

Earlier, CDC said the construction of the 184 commercial stalls at the Southside of the Bayanihan Park is about 25 percent and will be completed in less than 100 days of work.

Of the total number, 165 stalls will be allotted to former occupants who used to operate stalls in the same area along the Fields Avenue in Barangay Balibago, Angeles City.

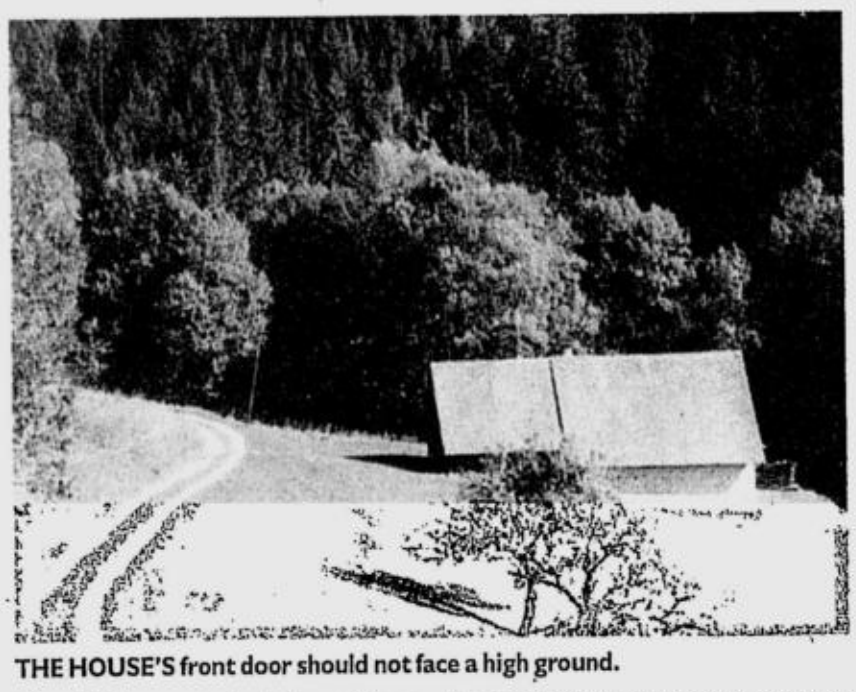
Angelo C. Lopez Jr., CDC public relations manager, said the fast-tracked project at the Bayanihan Park indicates the commitment of state-owned firm to provide a world-class park at the main gate of the ecozone.

Tips on choosing the best location

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

WHILE WE are given more choices with the influx of subdivisions and housing communities, it is vital for property buyers to assess the land on which they will build their home. Much effort, time and money will be spent on a new property so it is only reasonable for the buyer to scrutinize the location.

Here are some tips on how to choose the best location for a house or a building, as culled from Merlina Merton's Feng Shui for Better Living:



THE HOUSE'S front door should not face a high ground.

- The back part of the land should be higher than the front. The back part symbolizes the future while the front represents the present. If the back part of the land is higher than the front, this means that the family which will occupy the property will have better opportunities than what they are already experiencing at present.

- The left side of the lot should be higher or have more activity than the right side. Facing the street, the left side of your property, called the "dragon" in feng shui, generates positive energy. To benefit from this positive energy, the property owner should make sure that this side of the property is kept busy and active. On the other hand, the right side, called the "tiger," generates negative energy so this side should have less activity and movement.
- The lot should not be on the lowest or highest part of the community. The chi does not circulate well in a very low location and as a result may hinder development and growth. A house put up on the base of a canyon, for instance, is vulnerable to falling rocks or debris, floods and stagnant air. On the other hand, a lot that is on the highest part of the subdivision or community exposes the house or building to moderate or strong currents of air which in turn blows the favorable chi away. It is said that when this happens, the health and good fortune of those living in the house or building will also weaken or fade away.
- When buying a property that is near a curve of a road, choose the side that is inside, or "embraced" by, the curve and not the one that is outside the curve which gives the impression that it is "sliced" or "cut" by the curve.
- Your house or building should not be crammed between tall structures. This constrains and represses the energy which in turn will dampen good fortune, the occupants' own energies and passion. Business and family development will also be tough and problematic.
- Your house or building should not face a taller building or higher ground. This blocks the chi from entering your property and this will also give you obstacles.
- Your property should not face a narrow space between buildings. They say that this makes your home or building and its occupants open to accidents and sickness.
- Choose a property that does not have a creek, stream or canal at the back. Flowing water at the rear part of your property symbolizes instability as opposed to a higher ground which signifies support.

Advice

Merton also advises against building a property, a house or building facing or near the following:

- Graveyards and funeral parlors
- Abattoirs or slaughterhouses
- Hospitals and mental asylums
- Churches, temples or other religious establishments
- Fire stations, gas stations, garbage dumps and industrial chimney stacks
- Abandoned or rundown buildings
- Stations with large TV or radio antennae
- Police stations or military bases
- Gambling dens and houses of prostitution

FLOWING water at the back of your house suggests instability.

SAN Juanico Bridge

Bridging the (wide) gap

IMAGINE a seemingly endless drive on an over-water highway bridge with an expanse going from Rizal Park to Sta. Rosa, Laguna. That's the distance one will have to take if he or she uses the Second Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, the world's longest bridge listed in the Guinness World Records.

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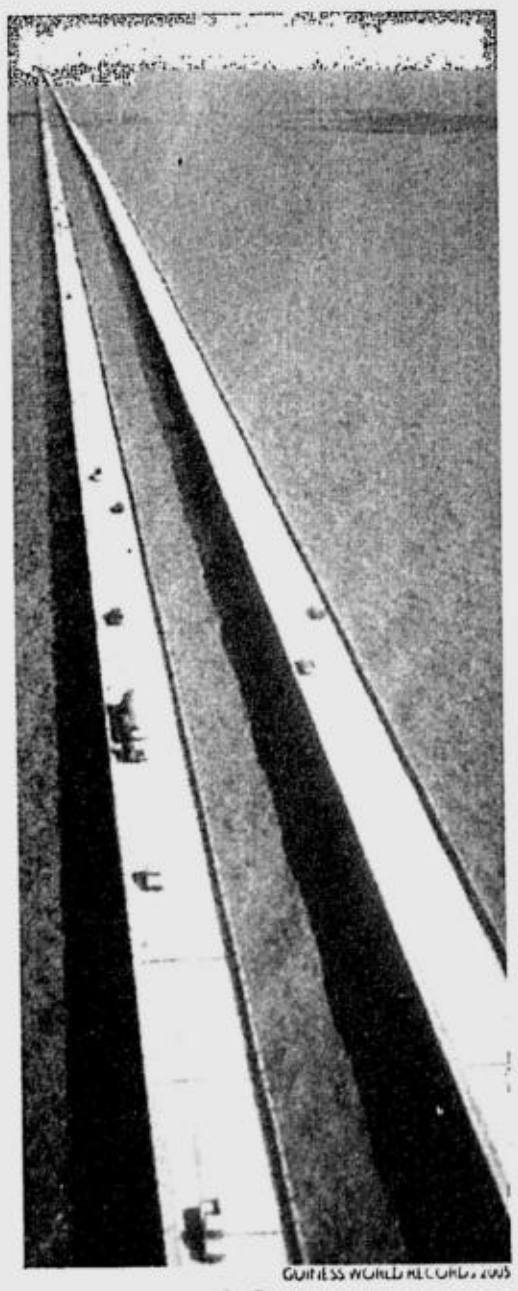
The First Causeway was built in 1956. The Lake Pontchartrain Causeway connects Mandeville and Metairie, Louisiana and stretches across Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



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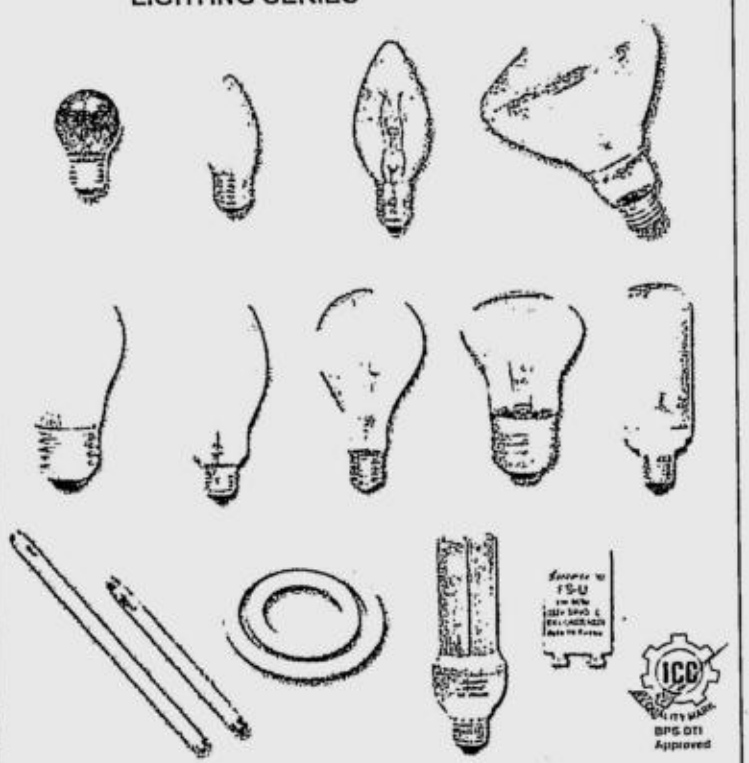

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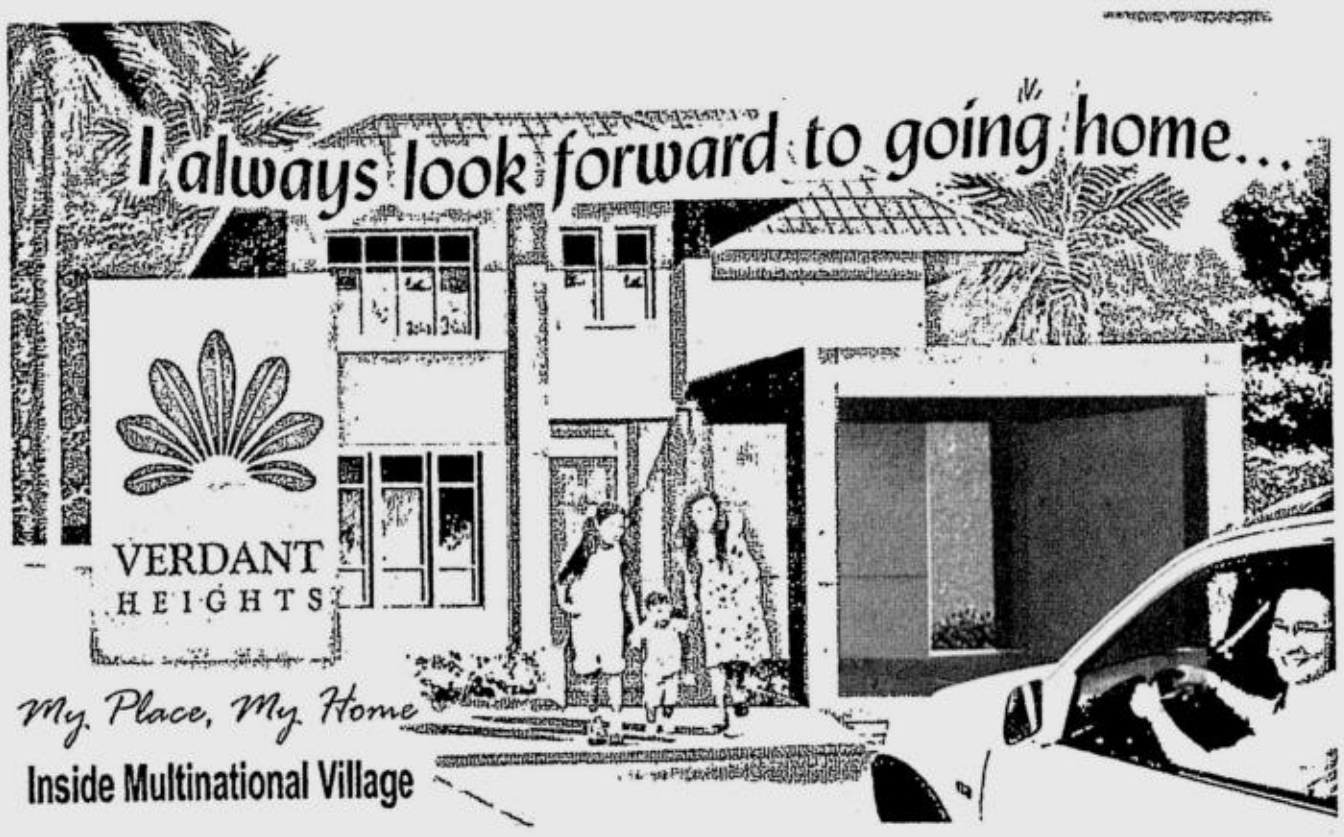

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- Play and sleep peacefully knowing that you and your loved ones are safe in your haven
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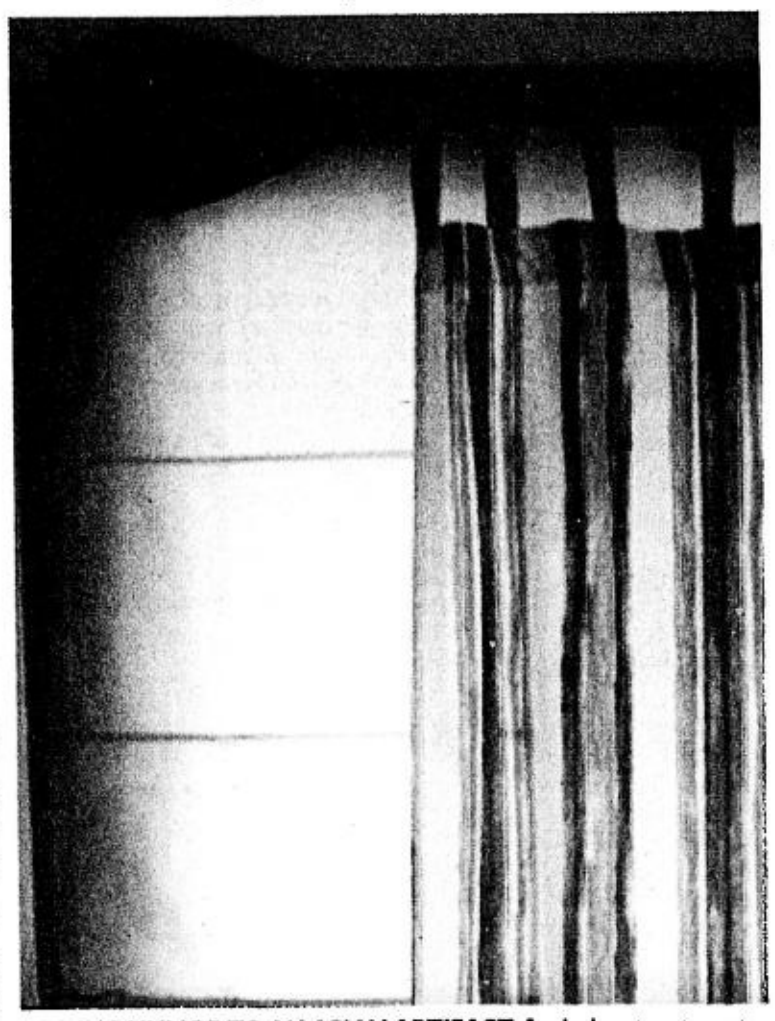
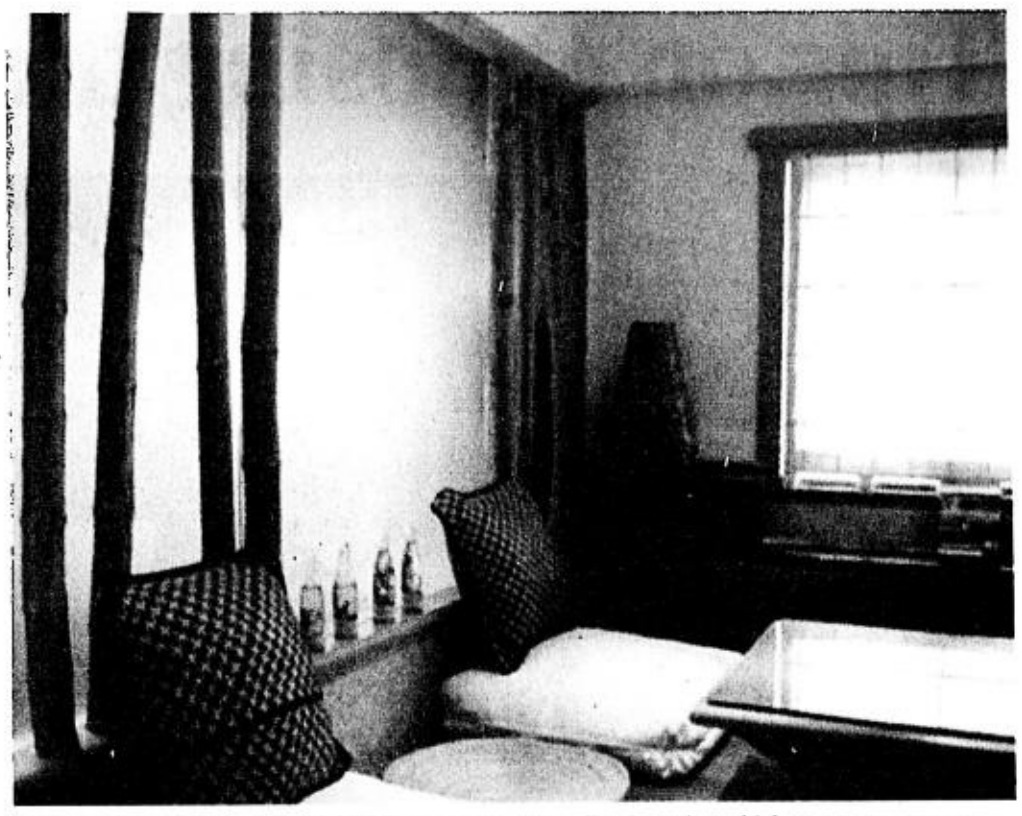
Romancing Asia

By Pinky B. Cruz



ADDING HUMOR TO AN ASIAN ARTIFACT. A window treatment need not be boring. Replacing the common rod with an antique paddle, for example, brings on a different effect.



LOW-LEVEL LIVING. A mark of Asian comfort is low-level seating which generates greater appeal with its simplicity.

A THRILL that never fails to give me a high as a designer is allowing my imagination to run wild as I stare at the details of a designed space—and visualize the new life that can be breathed into that seemingly empty space.

The way a small space expands by the drama of lighting and the way a concept is translated from paper to life. All real and pulsating, arresting and even inciting all creative juices in me that I didn't even think are there. I catch myself sometimes hiding to revel in touching the surfaces and staring at a transformed space, and admiring the artist who recreated a new beautiful thing from locally available resources.

COMMENTARY

At home with Asian

Prevailing city interiors are bent toward a style that is close to home: Asian-inspired themes. For the past five years, there has been a global clamor for a touch of the Oriental. You go to the malls, *tiangges* and furniture exhibits, you'll see this wide showcase of Eastern, exotic pieces and accessories. The world has become so enamored with how elements from Asia—with her rich and diverse culture and exotic tastes—can contribute to making interiors create an international fusion.

Zen mania remains. I go to restaurants, buy a hand-made paper lamp, or ask my landscaper to do a rock garden complete with bamboo motif and find touches of Zen all over. The big, old China fever caught up too, with the sudden resurrection of the Ming chair, and the classic armoir with the red lacquer getting so much attention lately. The Thai lanterns, Indian fabrics, Vietnamese ornaments and Balinese carvings have of late been finding their way in the style department. I have been doing projects of this variety myself for years that I'm beginning to wonder, "When is this going to end?"

The world is indeed becoming a palette of cultures, styles and technologies that transcend distance and cross barriers. And this is not only true in the realms of information or economics but in design trends as well. It was unthinkable just few years ago to order online your favorite Italian couch without the hassles (patents, IPRs and all) but now, an East-meets-West theme is just a click away.

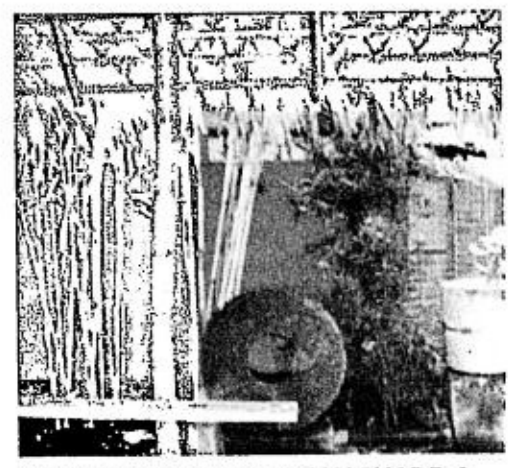
Less is more

I can't help but notice, too, the inclination toward ultramodern minimalist look. Look around and you'll see old buildings getting a facelift by a sheer addition of aluminum, glass and stone. Perhaps it's due to the chaos in our environment but there is evidently a return to the barest essentials, recreating what we have in a bid to give our designs a fresh look.

But amid this dizzying and frantic pace at which one can hardly catch up with who's who, who's following which, what's in and what's out, what's hot and what's not, it's so tempting to just go for what is popular and in vogue.

In fashion as well as in home design, it pays to be informed but it's tragic to be a victim of the times. After all, the world sees the oddballs in any field—and they are the ones who move that field. A lot of times, I see rehashed elements that are complete copycats, bereft of a soul. What separates a good design from a bad one is inventiveness—a uniqueness that gives any design flair and freshness, and which allows for much curiosity and engagement.

> Prevailing city interiors are bent toward a style that is close to home: Asian-inspired themes



ERNEST SANTIAGO'S ASIAN SHADE. A space may become sterile and unwelcoming. Exotic pieces in a natural setting will make for a calming effect on tired souls.

Stylish but not faddish

Don't bend toward a trend. Don't get drowned by the ongoing craze. So how does one adopt the trend to suit his or her own personal style? Let me count the ways.

1. **Start with the resources you have.** Then window shop for the things you can use to bring those resources together.

2. **Consider a space to be a blank canvass and you the artist.** Don't put another's style into that space. Fill it with who you are, with touches of your tastes in placing and displaying items.

3. **Don't overdo it.** You don't have to discard your existing furnishings to produce that updated look. Sometimes, a single flower arrangement with a burst of color in an Asian vase will do the trick.

4. **Do statement groupings.** Create a theme by concentrating on arranging items of the same material, or clustering in one grand setting rather than spreading them in random that weakens any design.

Above all, get lost in the jungle that is your mind. Trust your creative instincts. Trends are there to be the backdrop of your masterpiece. You are the master of these trends, not their slaves.

Balancing act

Setting your own trend is a balancing act between the wealth of information and choices available to you, and adapting them in the right context—your context! Remember, it is still you who make the mark.

Ultimately, it's not the current Asian or Zen trends or new directions that will shape the future of your design. Yes, it will still be your good, old you.

(The author is the senior designer and CEO of Creative Post Inc.)

Reviving the spirit at Caliraya

IN THE MIDST of all the terrors attacking hearts and minds, people need to find a peaceful corner of this earth where they can calm down and rediscover their souls' centers.

Such a spot can be found at Caliraya Re-Creation Center. Nestled on the shores of a mountain-top lake in Barangay Lewin, Lumban, Laguna, it is but a two and a half hours' drive from Metro Manila. The 7.6-hectare property affords a spectacular view of Lake Caliraya, and the mythical heights of Banahaw, Makiling and Cristobal provide the lush green backdrop.

Sports and recreation

Given this ideal lakeside location, water sports are a main attraction at Caliraya. Guests can skim the waters on speedboats, water skis, kneeboards, or jetskis; or leisurely flow on canoes or kayaks; or take on the full expanse of the lake on a four-hour boat ride. There are also lakeside picnic huts and pavilions to laze around in, and the fishing alley is just around the corner.

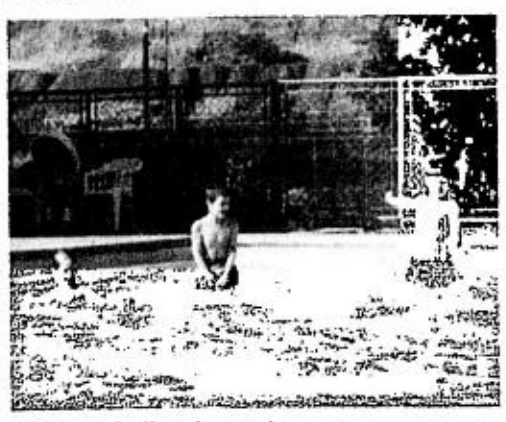
More playtime features include the swimming pool, a lake beach, horseback riding, campsite, tent area, obstacle course, table tennis, billiard tables, soccer and softball field, and courts for basketball, tennis, volleyball and earthball. And after expending all that energy, guests can rest in peaceful slumber in any of the center's 72 air-conditioned rooms.

The center also boasts of sumptuous food offerings deliciously prepared by their exceptional chefs, cooks and bakers. Room bookings are inclusive of meals and guests can savor scrumptious breads, homemade jams, delectable Filipino favorites, as well as the freshest of seafood.

Family Christian resort

Under the current guidance of the husband and wife team of Pastor Rhollie and Lady Au Sabater, Caliraya Re-Creation Center is the first family Christian resort in Asia. Though not affiliated with any church denomination, the center operates from an evangelical Christian perspective.

MAN and horse take a peaceful walk.



KIDS cool off at the pool.

Thus, it is not unusual for individual guests or visitors from schools, churches, corporations and other organizations to enjoy spiritually enriching activities along with the recreation and leisure facilities. Gospel presentations and bible studies are available for those who seek spiritual nurturing.

The center also maintains its family-oriented atmosphere by implementing its no smoking and no drinking policies, as well as effecting guidelines for modesty and sobriety. As a merciful accommodation though, those who can't be parted from their nicotine can burn their poison in designated smoking areas, causing the least harm to the environment and other people's health. But then again, with the clean and clear atmosphere at Caliraya, it's such a pity to succumb to the temptation of polluting the air.

Given all the excellent facilities, delightful food choices, and fun-filled activities, guests are likely to forego those habits, if only for a while. Instead, they can immerse themselves in the tranquil and uplifting spirit of Caliraya Re-Creation Center. And thus rejuvenated, they can once again boldly face the challenges of life with fresh inspiration.

For further information, visit Caliraya Re-Creation Center at ASB Center, 114 Benavidez St., Legaspi Village, Makati; or call 892-7777, loc. 524, 525, 215, and 212; or email: info@caliraya.net. You can also log on to the center's website: www.caliraya.net.

SKIMMING the waters of Lake Caliraya

Housing issues, problems, initiatives to be discussed at SHDA-HUDCC confab

THE HOUSING program with its issues and problems as well as new initiatives to boost housing delivery will be the focus of the national developers convention organized by the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. The convention will held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City on Oct. 26-27.

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo will keynote the convention. Vice President Noli de Castro as HUDCC chair will also speak before the convention. Housing is one of the administration's top priorities.

ALFEREZ

CHOA

Biggest gathering

It will be the country's biggest gathering of the housing industry's key players, developers and professionals from the government and private sectors. The convention theme is "Mas Maraming Pabahay, Mas Maraming Hanapbuhay; Katiyakan sa Pabahay, Yaman ng Buhay."

De Castro will lead the government housing agencies in giving updates on the national shelter program.

SHDA national president Marilu F. Alferez and board chair Bansan C. Choa said the convention will discuss trends and macro perspectives on urban development, sustainable financing for the housing sector, marketing strategies for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), price stabilization of construction materials, taxation and fiscal incentives for the housing industry, fast-tracking permits and licenses, report on housing deliveries, potential and business opportunities from the retirement program, and dialogue with key shelter agencies.

Multiplier effect

Housing development has a multiplier effect of some 14.7 percent, Alferez and Chua said, citing a study by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Increases in housing construction will impact on 60 other related industries such as those involved in manufacturing cement, paints, electrical and other construction materials, including furniture and furnishings. These expansions will increase employment opportunities and collection of taxes by the government, thus boosting the national economy.

The convention is open to all developers, contractors, realtors and brokers, bankers, housing finance institutions, government housing agencies, planners, architects, engineers and other allied industries.

To grace the ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the SHDA industry exhibit and the opening session are House Majority Floorleader Prospero C. Nograles, House committee chair on housing Eduardo C. Zialcita and Representatives Teofisto L. Guingona III and

HOUSING/ B5

Eastwood Cybermall: Newest IT hub in metro

LEADING urban developer Megaworld Corp. established Eastwood Cybermall in Eastwood City, the premier mixed-used real estate development in the country. This is in response to the ever-evolving needs of today's consumers.

Located at the podium of the 32-story Cyber One Building, Eastwood Cybermall consists of three floors, totaling 5,000 square meters of retail space. With modern industrial interiors dominated by glass, aluminum and steel, it marks a dynamic shift in the sale and retail of IT and electronics.

Center for gadget lovers

Eastwood Cybermall houses a tremendous array of stores and retail outlets that offer the most complete collection of cutting-edge technology, including hard-to-find digital wares. This sprawling lifestyle center for gadget lovers and Y-generation techies hosts Internet services, computer shops, wireless communications, mobile hubs, all under one roof. There are also food outlets where people can either hang out or grab a bite of their favorite foods.

The cell phone fanatic will never get his fill of the latest phones at Smart Communications, My Mobile Solutions, Touchtel and Semicon with their display of world-renowned mobile phone brands and motion computing PC tablets, iPod and Palm.

Testimonials

Strolling through the mall, Ecky Gonzales, CEO of C-Cubed, finds himself marveling at the wide array of high performance gadgets and mobile phones on display. He regularly visits Eastwood Cybermall to look for books written by his favorite authors at National Bookstore; his office being just a few blocks away in Eastwood City's CyberPark.

On the other hand, IBM president and CEO Joaquin E. Quintos IV relates that Eastwood Cybermall reminds him of IT outlets in Singapore and Hong Kong. Just like Eastwood Cybermall, the shops are all housed in one building, making shopping for IT, electronics and other hi-tech gadgets very convenient.

Ace lensman Francis Abraham frequently visits Eastwood Cybermall, either to check out the latest camera equipment, or simply to stroll around and unwind after a hectic day at the studio. A resident of Greenhills, he prefers to go to Eastwood Cybermall where he can find electronics, IT and services, all under one roof.

Another regular habituè at Eastwood Cybermall is Sitel managing director of operations Nathan Shapiro. Since his office is located atop Eastwood Cybermall, he does all his daily shopping at Cybermall. He shares that he specifically tells his employees to check out Cybermall first, before they even think of driving to the nearby Ortigas district.

Business establishments

Computer aficionados always make a beeline for Data Blitz, PCN, E-Media, Brent.com, Bayan PC, CD-R King, E-Hub Computers and Villman Computer Systems Inc.—all offering the widest array of IT products and services. Stocked with the latest computer hardware and software, these outlets will keep people in stride with the fast pace of information technology.

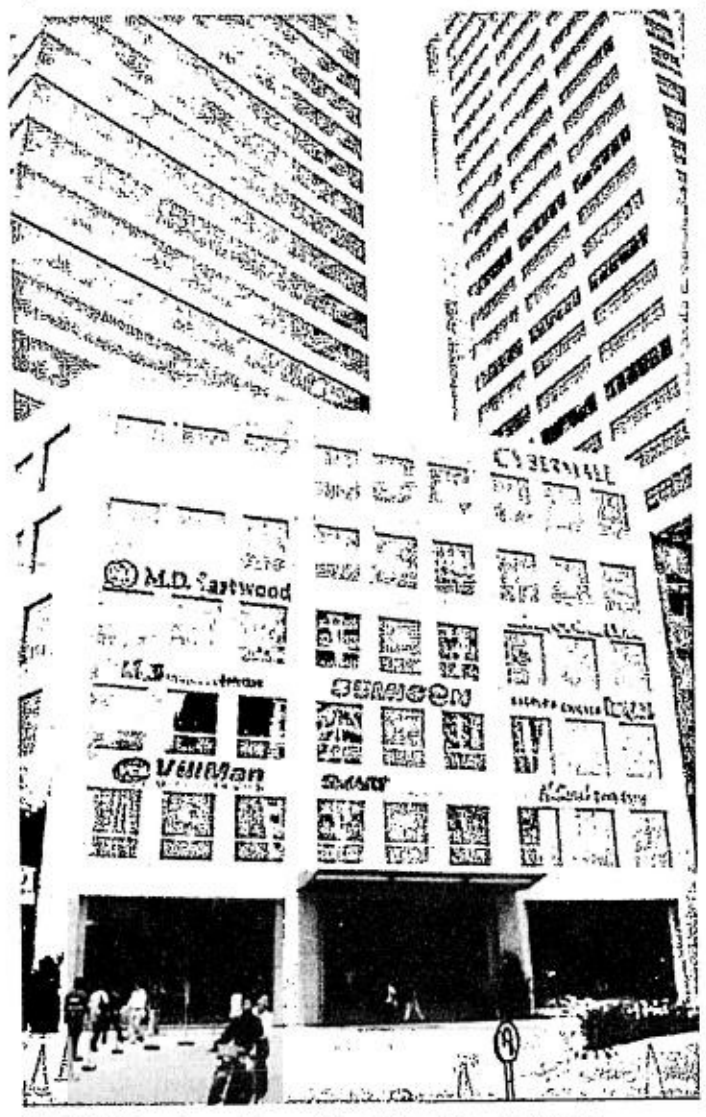
Photography buffs on the other hand, will certainly find a camera or equipment suited to their needs at Kameraworld, while certified audiophiles will drool while browsing the racks at The Brain Audiovisual Co. Internet and gaming aficionados will feel perfectly at home at Utopian Eon, with its fast Internet access using Red Hat Linux operating system, while avid magazine readers will be happy when Hot Source Magazines opens soon.

The third floor is the Food Hub, bringing together a cluster of food outlets that offer innovative dining for people who are constantly on the move. Zuppa Café is the place for those who love Italian pesto, salads, pastas and paninis. Pinoydon brings a Japanese twist to favorite Filipino dishes with aligue maki, and bistekdon. Bacolod Chicken Inasal serves up a taste of authentic native culinary delights, on top of the famous chicken inasal. Other choices are Booster Bar, Yoshi-Q, Dimsum 'n Dumplings, Mexicali and Ice Monster.

There's also Serve Shoppe and MD Eastwood. The latter specializes in dental medicine, EENT, ophthalmology, pediatrics and diagnostic procedures like X-ray, ECG and ultra sound. It likewise provides consultation and services in dermatology, nutrition, obstetrics and gynecology.

The other retail outlets at the Eastwood Cybermall are Seattle's Best Coffee, Abenson/Electroworld, General Electric, Photo Depot, Radio Shack, Audio Excellence, BPI Express Center, Globe Telecoms, Camerahaus, mail delivery firm LBC and Dynamite Games, a fun zone for computer game enthusiasts.

These and more, are what's in store for those who regularly visit Eastwood City's Cybermall. Located on Eastwood Avenue, it's the perfect place to be for those who want to be one with technology and innovation. Cybermall is open every day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.



LOCATED at the podium of the Cyber One, Eastwood Cybermall is home to a tremendous array of stores with the most complete collection of cutting-edge technology, including hard-to-find digital gadgets and gizmos.

Attention homeowners:
Don't be fooled by substitutes!

Not all termite baits are equally effective. The Sentricon *Termite Colony Elimination System* ("Sentricon System") is the revolutionary termite bait system you've heard so much about since its introduction in 1995. It's the best protection for your home. In fact, the Sentricon System has proven its ability to eliminate subterrarean termnite colonies. It provides the ultimate protection against termite damage.

The Sentricon System has been extensively tested by independent university researchers across and outside the U.S. and their research efforts clearly document colony elimination. This has been proven in published, peer-reviewed, independent studies.

The immense popularity of the Sentricon System among homeowners has raised the standard for termite control. Termite colony elimination is now the goal. And the Sentricon System equals colony elimination.

This is why more and more Filipino homes and commercial buildings trust and rely on the Sentricon System to safeguard their investments from being ravaged by destructive termites.

BEWARE!
Don't be fooled by lookalike products!
When you ask for the Sentricon System, make sure you get the Sentricon System.
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PEST AWAY 861-3403 to 04, SANITECH 771-2054 to 55
Pasig: BIOTECH 638-3350 • 638-2566
Quezon City: CHEMITRON 911-5705, PESTCONTROL 371-9386 • 375-8134, TOPBEST 435-9085 • 436-4811

Housing issues, problems . . .

From page B4

Corazon N. Malanyaon.

Updates on programs

To give updates on their respective programs are lawyer Romero Federico Quimbo, president and CEO, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund); Gonzalo A. Bongolan, president, Home Guaranty Corp.; Celso G. delos Angeles Jr., president, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.; Federico A. Laxa, general manager, National Housing Authority; and Romulo Q. Fabul, CEO and commissioner, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Speakers in sustainable housing financing session are Pag-Ibig Fund's Quimbo and Tomas V. Clemente Jr., president, Chamber of Thrift Banks. On the panel are Reynaldo G. David, president, Development Bank of the Philippines; Ma. Luz C. Generoso, assistant vice president, Social Security System; Arnaldo C. Cuasay, senior vice president, Government Service Insurance System; Ma. Belen S. Fabella, OIC-GCI, Home Guaranty Corp. SHDA Governors Epifanio N. Santillan Jr. and Benirando D. Claudio will be the reactors.

In the workshop on OFWs, Administrator Marianito D. Roque of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration will discuss government-private sector convergence to address OFW housing needs, while SHDA chair Choa will take up innovative marketing strategies for OFWs and remittance.

SHDA board adviser Marcelino C. Mendoza and governor and auditor Zenaida M. Marquez will be the workshop chair and vice chair. Melissa Linda Arquiza of HUDCC will serve as rapporteur.

Price stabilization

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima will talk on price stabilization of cement and steel in the workshop on price stabilization of construction materials.

Other speakers in this workshop are Filipino Galvanizers Institute president Salvo Perez on adequate supply versus demand; Philippine Iron & Institute president Wellington Y. Tong, plans of cement and steel manufacturers; and Rapid Forming Corp. VP Gigi Anne M. Lapira, e-commerce.

SHDA board adviser Roy D. Calleja is the workshop chair and HUDCC's Rowena Dineros is the rapporteur.

Opportunities

Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority deputy GM Jose T. Marcelo Jr. will discuss the opportunities for real estate developers in the billion-dollar retirement industry, and areas of cooperation, and procedures in accrediting leisure and residential projects.

Rose Princess Homes CEO Atsukuni Munetomo and The Farm at San Benito GM Rudolf Studer will talk on demand and opportunities for retirement homes and health-care services among foreign retirees.

SHDA governor Bienvenido S. Uy will chair the workshop, while governor for Luzon Linda Tan will be co-chair. Neda division chief Elnora Romero is the rapporteur.

Reward your years of hard work with AGE home

A FAMILY walks along the greenery-lush putting green area near Ayala Greenfield Estates' Village Clubhouse.

YEARS of hard work to save for the future makes one doubly careful of where his or her earnings go, especially after retirement.

After decades of toiling and adjusting to the needs of the growing family, retirees understandably seek time for themselves to truly enjoy the fruits of their labor. They look out for the property that fits their change of status to a T, preferably one that's away from the rigors of urban life.

Seeking respite

There are also the active mature ones, who are, in significant ways, still involved with various aspects of their professions, as well as with recreation or other activities with their respective circles and communities. Because they're still pretty much involved with their daily routines, many of them seek a respite from city stress by displacing themselves in escapist yet accessible venues from time to time.

This desire for a change of scenery has brought them to one of the most trusted names in real estate development and to a certain upscale subdivision, particularly Ayala Greenfield Estates.

Golf, leisure community

Touted as the only real golf and leisure community in the country, the development is ideal for those who have experienced life fully prior to retirement, and are willing to experience a whole new life altogether. It's also excellent for sprightly empty nesters who are still in their prime and are seeking a sense of solitude from what has become the norm for them. The conveniences of the city will be mere minutes away from their new homes, whichever the case may be.

It is not surprising that several homeowners have already grabbed the distinct opportunity to live in a soothing, clean and safe environment such as Ayala Greenfield Estates. The constantly cool breeze, postcard-perfect views of Mt. Makiling and Laguna de Bay, and the lush terrain have allowed residents to experience these superlative perks on a daily basis. They have also raved about wanting to play golf at a very convenient distance—mere steps away from their homes!

A GOLFER enjoys time alone at Ayala Greenfield Estates' putting green.

Designed by environment-conscious architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., the 18-hole, par 72, all-weather golf course is one that residents—both young and old alike—are looking forward to. These homeowners can play special games within their capabilities all day, or enjoy the inviting amenities of Ayala Greenfield Estates with friends or relatives who seek a different twist to their down time.

Relaxing activities

The Nature Park, the Fishing Lagoon, the Village Clubhouse, and indoor tennis and badminton courts provide them with a number of relaxing or rejuvenating activities that can keep them staying and feeling young and healthy. Rewarding oneself with only the best is definitely money well spent, and can only mean brighter and fond memories to spend with children and grandchildren in more relaxed years ahead.

Purchase of a lot at Ayala Greenfield Estates entitles the buyer to an exclusive golf share. For details, please call 848-5000, log on to www.ayala-land.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Crown Asia: Where dreams are lived

CROWN Asia, the real estate developer with unwavering track record for creating secure, affordable homes and communities of superior architecture, continues to build developments to fulfill the lifetime dreams of Filipino families.

Continuously rising across the nation from North to South are themed residential communities that are tucked away from aggravations of the metropolis, embraced by tranquil nature yet strategically situated for immediate access to business districts. Complementing every lifestyle, need and taste, its myriad of carefully designed model homes reveal Italian influenced architecture while flexible home and lot packages make it more than an elusive dream.

Italian-inspired communities

Countless families come home to the thriving lived-in communities that Crown Asia has created. Heightening the anticipation of returning to your abode to be with your waiting family and to unwind is the charming selection of Italian-inspired communities with a wide array of model homes and phases.

• Fortezza, a beguiling community that offers daily rejuvenation and awaited retreat from the hassles of the metro; an unprecedented haven in the sprawling grounds of Laguna.

• Citta Italia, a flourishing high-end community of lovely single-detached abodes that combine cosmopolitan living with the elegance of Italy amid the tranquility of Imus, Cavite.

Nestled in the East are La Montagna, Mia Vitta and Maia Alta, Crown Asia communities amid the thriving foliage of Antipolo, yet a mere 30-minute drive to Ortigas Center.

The communities are equipped with first-rate amenities and facilities for various sports and leisure activities—clubhouses, function halls, swimming pools, parks and playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts and compact gyms. One does not have to leave the community, be it for rejuvenation, socializing with neighbors or spending precious time with your family.

For more than eight eventful years, Crown Asia remains unparalleled in building master-planned communities. Satisfying the unique needs and tastes of families for ingeniously designed homes that maximize space yet are visually appealing calls for a continuous process of innovation.

5 values

On behalf of distinct architectural influences and constant change, every home or community continues to adhere to the five values that are solely Crown Asia's:

• **Greens.** Preservation of nature and its integration with each community are tenaciously observed. Thriving landscaping and sprawling foliage surround every dwelling, providing scenic vistas and the rare opportunity of breathing in fresh air.

• **Security.** Utmost rejuvenation in your home comes with the knowledge that your family's safety is guaranteed. Communities are structured and manned to put each resident at ease within the comforts of his/her home.

• **Choices.** Various attractive model homes have been carefully designed to cater to unique needs and tastes. Intended residents are given the liberty to choose from a wide array of home and lot packages.

• **Serenity.** Experience the true sense of serenity in your home within a community of calm and quiet—surrounded by family, friendly neighbors and leisure facilities.

• **Attainability.** To have a comfortable home of ingenious design in a pleasant community and lifetime security is every family's dream. With Crown Asia's flexible and affordable property rates, families can live that dream today.

Crown Asia creates ideal communities to raise children, collect wonderful memories, live amid tranquil nature, experience lasting security and where families live their lifelong dreams.

As Crown Asia developments, value for money with high-quality architecture amid the rare find of unspoiled nature is offered. Interested parties may call 873-1614 and 871-3882.

EMPIRE East Suntrust marketing staff show visitors around the Ashley model house.

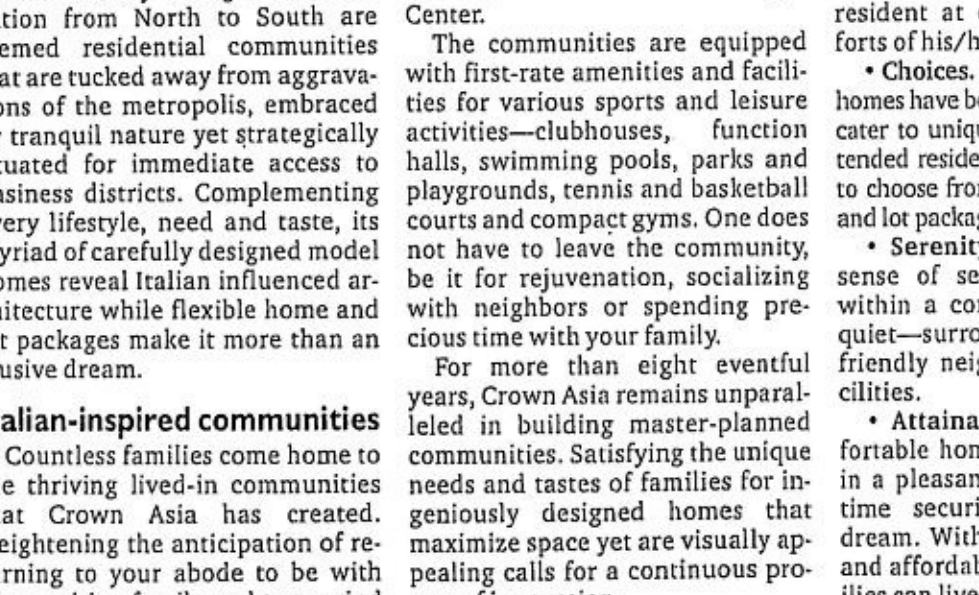
Empire East Suntrust unveils new Greensboro model houses at Governor's Hills

EMPIRE East Suntrust (Empire East Properties Inc.), developer of affordable, energy-saving homes, recently unveiled the Ashley and Chelsea II model houses of its new Greensboro phase at Governor's Hills, an 89-hectare community located along Governor's Drive in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Ashley is a two-story, two-bedroom duplex-type home with a floor area of 62 square meters and a lot area of 77 square meters.

Chelsea II is a two-story, four-bedroom single-detached home with a cathedral ceiling and a floor area of 115.5 square meters and a lot area of 154 square meters.

Greensboro, located next to the upcoming Governor's Hills Science School, features Hampstead Gardens, a 1,078-square-meter park with landscaped greenery, jogging paths, wooden benches and a central water fountain.



PRESIDENT ARROYO INAUGURATES GT TOWER
Metrobank chair George S.K. Ty thanks President Macapagal-Arroyo after she unveiled the marker of GT Tower International during the building's inauguration. With them are Toyota Motor Corp. honorary chair Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, Rep. Cynthia Villar and ADB president Tadao Chino, who assisted the President in unveiling the marker.

Powermix bags top waterproofing brand award

GLOBAL Brands Co. Inc.'s Powermix Cementitious Waterproofing bagged the Top Waterproofing Compound for 2004 in the 22nd annual National Consumers Quality and People's Choice Awards.

Powermix bested local and foreign waterproofing brands in product features or quality, contribution to consumers, pricing and public opinion.

Receiving the award were Romano Arrienda, assistant vice president for business development and export and Edmundo dela Vega, business development manager.

Awareness campaign

"We believe the combination of the company's extensive awareness campaign to end-users nationwide and the delivery of the claimed features and benefits was key to this award," Arrienda remarked.

Further, according to Arrienda, the company expects more end-users and even homeowners will now realize the necessity of waterproofing their structures for long-term protection of their investment. As Powermix becomes known in the industry, he hopes to attract more users so that they may also experience the cost-effective waterproofing solution offered by the brand.

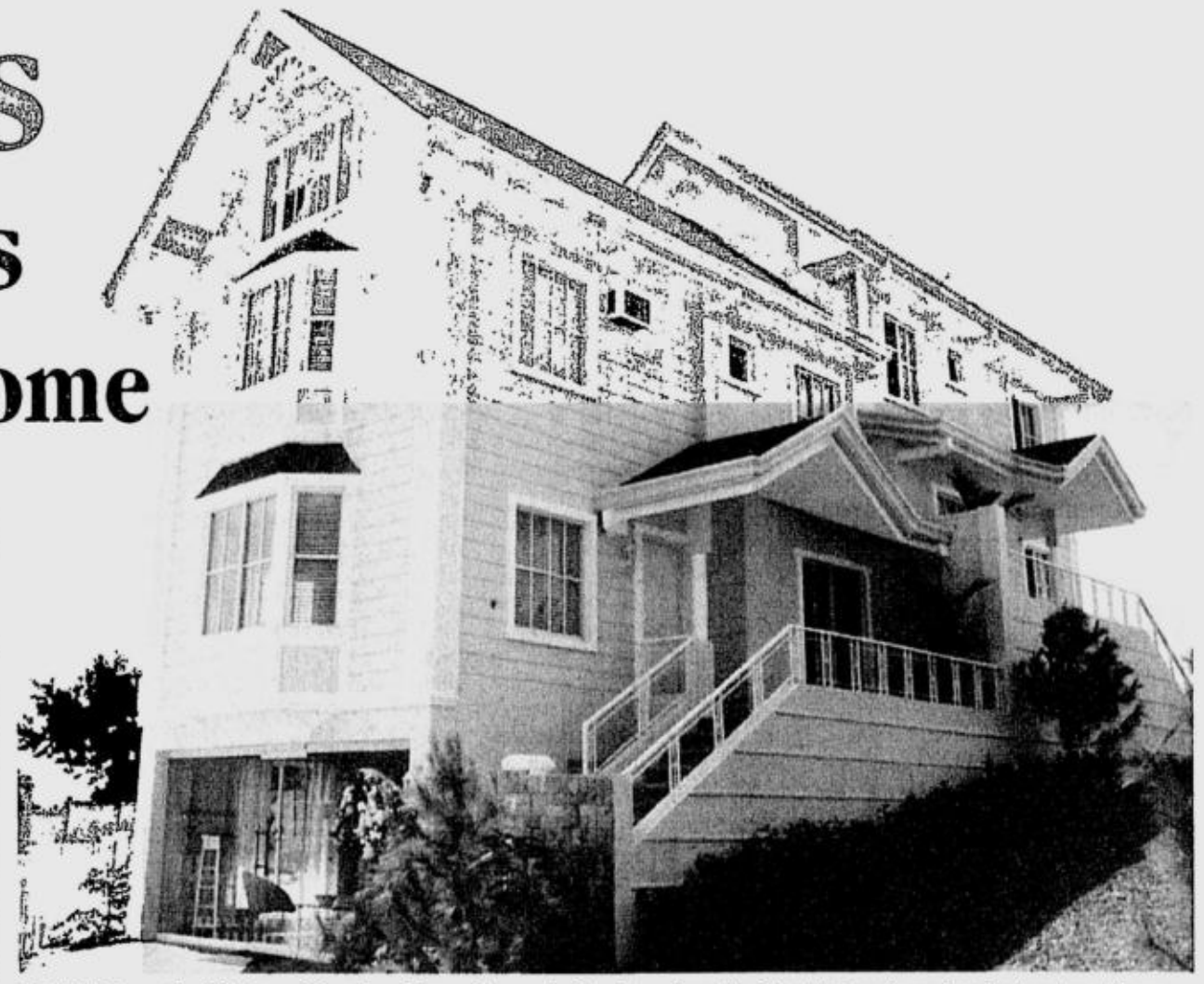
Widely used

Powermix has been widely used in water protection of various commercial and residential structures nationwide and in some countries in Southeast Asia. Its main features are superior water protection, crack bridging properties, strong adhesion to concrete, use versatility and tintability (for colored applications).

Powermix can be used for waterproofing roof decks, bathrooms, water tanks, concrete gutters and firewalls. It can also be used for tile over tile adhesion, grouting, bonding new to old concrete and EIFS basecoat.

An ISO certified company, GBCI maintains high standards in quality and performance. It is also a Hall of Fame awardee as the Most Outstanding Manufacturer of Adhesives.

Brittany Bay's Victorianne launches Duetto model home



DRAWN from the "Postcard Row" on Alamo Square in San Francisco, the Duetto is an ingeniously structured four-level abode festooned with a balcony, viewing deck and bay window.

BRITTANY Bay, a unique community of neighborhoods with its distinctive neo-Victorian theme inspiration, recently launched the Duetto model home in its Victorianne neighborhood. It is also a novel urban renewal concept offering a different "lifescape" that is redefining standards for metro living.

Brittany Bay is the flagship project of maverick developer Brittany Corp., known for upscale residential communities that are carefully conceptualized and planned as well as inspired by themes that add superior value and design coherence. With its strategic location bound by the Sucat and Bicutan Interchanges, it is only 15 minutes from Makati via South Luzon Expressway and 20 minutes from Ortigas Center via C5.

Symphony of components

Brittany Bay's thoughtfully orchestrated neighborhoods are a symphony of horizontal and vertical components: Victorianne, with its delightful Duettos and Quadrilles, reminiscent of "Postcard Row" on Alamo Square in San Francisco; La Posada, consisting of lovely, single-detached home and lot residences with picturesque windows and comfortable porches; and Viera, an array of mid-rise condos varying in height that embody the values of privacy, style and community.

The neighborhoods will be enhanced by first-rate amenities, selected restaurants and shops, greenery, landscaping, a promenade, a viewing deck and walkways, all imparting a natural, relaxed feel while providing residents the means with which fulfill their needs and wants within a total community.

Duetto model home

The Duetto model home on Victorianne Row complements the residences of adjacent La Posada, which some homeowners have already moved into. Its architecture and interior design attest to the quality that makes it both visually striking and highly comfortable.

A four-level structure, the Duetto has two units back-to-back to ensure privacy for homeowners. The first level consists of a two-car garage, a maid's room, laundry area and bathroom. Stairs on the side of the garage ascend to the front door and balcony on the second level, where the living, dining and kitchen areas are located.

THE DUETTO'S living room is located on the second level and features lovely bay windows.

Sliding glass doors

Inside the front door, on the right are sliding glass doors leading to the balcony by the dining area, next to the kitchen. Looking out front over the garage is a lovely bay window with a built-in seat facing La Posada.

On the wall across the front door is another set of sliding glass doors with a compact viewing deck outside. To the right of these glass doors is a writing table along the stairs.

On the third level to the right of the stairs lies the master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath, and a second bedroom on the left. In between is another toilet and bath. The stairs lead on to the fourth level, a full attic useful for storage space, or a den, playroom or study, or a third bedroom.

With the first area of Victorianne already sold out, the development of a new area for Duettos and Quadrilles has begun. The new area will adhere to the neo-Victorian theme inspiration in new and different ways, closely resembling San Francisco's Postcard Row, complementing the homes in the first area.

Prices

Each Victorianne Duetto starts at P6.6 million, with a total 146 sq m of floor space on 86 sq m of lot area. The Quadrilles start at P4.9 million with 126 sq m of floor space on 70 sq m of lot area.

Both the Duettos and the Quadrilles are meant for families who deserve to start enjoying the rewards of success.

Previews of the Duetto model home and other Brittany Bay property may be arranged by calling 850-6986, 850-2868 and 850-3084.

Have everything in 5 minutes at The Columns

WHAT'S within five minutes of The Columns, Ayala Avenue? Everything the city has to offer, that's what.

The Columns, the hip high-rise condo complex from an Ayala company, Community Innovations Inc., is planted right on the cusp of the dynamic business and entertainment hubs of Makati City. After all, with an Ayala Avenue address—your address, should you choose to live there—what else should you expect?

A total of 175 office buildings are within five minutes from The Columns, Ayala Avenue. That's 175 single structures housing hundreds of businesses, offices, and companies. Banks, travel agencies, media, investing and the local headquarters of multinational conglomerates are practically just outside The Columns' doorstep. That could be your doorstep.

A nice walk

Almost all the ones in Makati are within minutes from The Columns. That means those hassling commutes can be reduced to a nice walk. If you know how Makati traffic goes, you know the convenience of walking to and from work is practically priceless.

Dozens of international embassies are in the neighborhood, for everyone looking to travel for fun or enterprise. As for services, they're all there, from the most important—Makati Medical Center, one of the best hospitals in the country, is right across the intersection from The Columns—to the most recreational: golf centers, spas, fitness centers, driving ranges and more. Not to mention schools such as the Ateneo Law School and School of Business, De La Salle Graduate School of Business, Don Bosco Academy, and churches like St. Andrew, Shrine of the Sacred Heart and Greenbelt Chapel—all within walking distance from The Columns.

What about fun? Jupiter Street, with its restaurants, nightclubs and high-end art and design showrooms, is a short drive behind The Columns. Head down Ayala Avenue and hang a right on Makati Avenue, and there's Ayala Center, from the multitude of shopping experiences of Glorietta to the massive block of The Landmark to the award-winning garden oasis of Greenbelt—with the best cinemas in town and a thriving new center for nightlife with its bars, restaurants, and clubs. Hang a left, and continue on to the neon streets and hotspots along Kalayaan and its environs.

With all these at your feet-again, literally at your feet: you can walk to almost anywhere in Legaspi and Salcedo villages from The Columns, if you wanted to—you might not want to stay at home. But you should. And not just for the brightly lit rooms and corridors, so revolutionary compared to your stereotypical city condo.

New epicenter

Here's why: a seventh-floor open-air Recreation Club that's the equivalent of a club membership, with an integrated suite of amenities the completeness of which can't be found in any other comparable residential development in Makati. A fitness center for those days when you just don't want to get out to work out. A game room with a mini-theatre system. Of course swimming pools for grownups and kids. Speaking of things for the kids, how about a daycare center and safety-conscious playground? Add a jogging path and it's an all-in-one getaway seven stories above the city traffic and an elevator ride from your front door.

The Columns will also create a new epicenter for hanging out and coming together. Its ground floor is designed to house al fresco dining and cafés. You can expect the usual suspects to be the coffeehouses at the feet of The Columns' three towers. Plus a mini-grocer for residents who need to grab a quick item or two, a laundry service—all surrounded by friendly tree-shaded plazas and gardens.

Ultimate chance

CII is now offering the ultimate chance to become part of this irresistible "vertical village." Buyers who wish to seize this final opportunity to enter into the good life at The Columns, Ayala Avenue are able to avail of special zero-down payment schemes.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is right there to get everywhere.

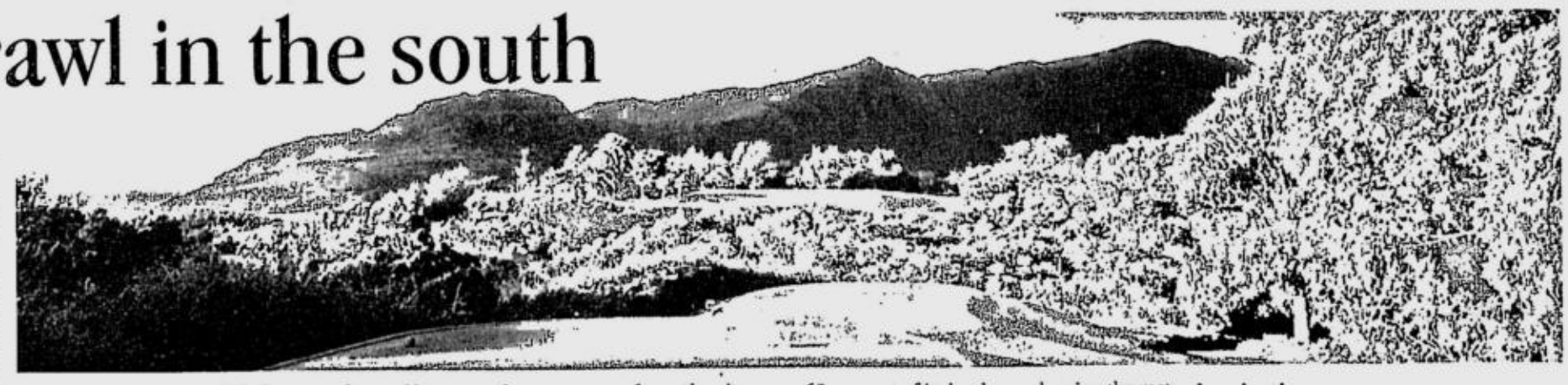
Model units are available for viewing at the third floor, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center.

NEW RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

ESTABLISHED in 1995, Landspan Ventures Inc. is presenting another residential project, the 10th St. Residences, located at 104-A, 10th Street, New Manila, Quezon City. The project features five tropically inspired, modern-style homes available for sale and viewing. It is expected to be completed by December of this year. Architect Charles Young said he is always inspired by the tropical modern style. Complete functionality and distribution of spaces are his key elements in designing and planning. His ideas on interior design were used in this project to make it a simply practical and elegant place to live in.

Urban sprawl in the south

From page B8



THIS hillside property is being transformed into a perfect sanctuary from the city.

amenities of today's modern conveniences.

Barely 25 minutes from Makati, Canyon Ranch serves as the perfect sanctuary from the city.

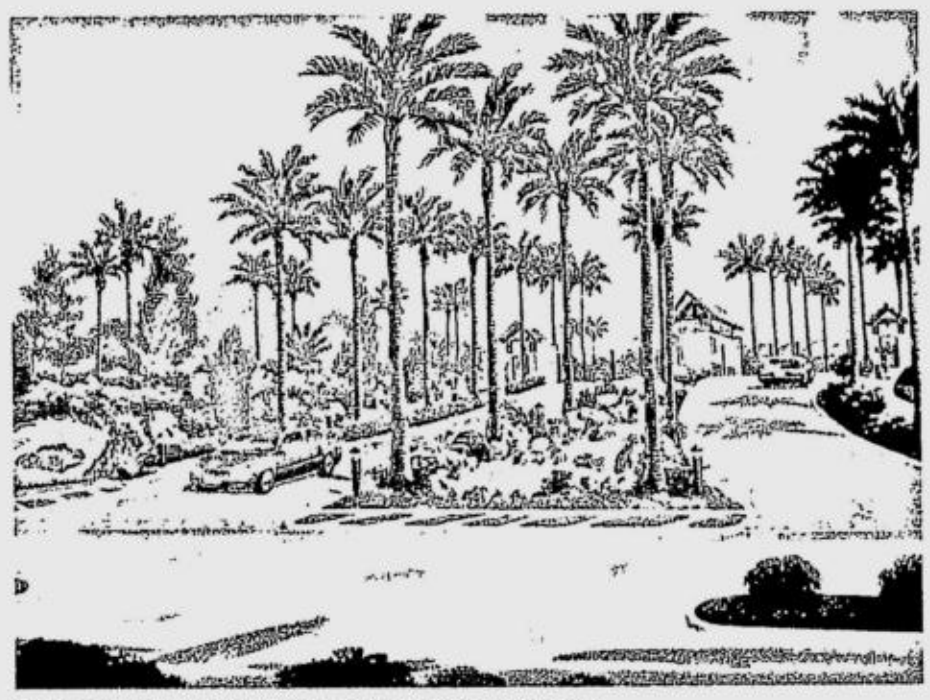
Says Antonio: "We are very excited with the opportunity of developing this hillside property. Canyon Ranch represents a fresh new way of living. Rarely can you find a well-planned settlement that perfectly combines the natural charm of country life with the comforts of contemporary living."

Canyon Ranch expects to cater to urban professionals, entrepreneurs, young achievers, businessmen and families from the central business districts of Makati and Alabang as well as from nearby industrial estates. It can also be a good second home as it is between Makati CBD, Tagaytay and other beach destinations in Batangas and Cavite. Easy access is through the Carmona Exit along South Luzon Expressway or the Alabang Skyway.

Californian-style homes

Homes are built in classic two-story Californian style with various layouts ranging from three- to five-bedroom residences with floor areas of 80 to 280 square meters. All are individually decorated with view decks giving way to sweeping vistas of Laguna de Bay, Mt. Makiling, Antipolo and the world-class MJC racetrack. Prices start at P2.9 million with as low as P8,800 monthly amortization.

Antonio also points out that this master-planned community will make use of only 60 percent of its land area, leaving the rest for tree-lined streets, themed gardens, open spaces and community centers. Also serving the needs of about 700 homes at Canyon Ranch and its neighboring communities is a Village Center—a commercial multiplex that will house numerous establishments. There will also be a clubhouse featuring sports and leisure facilities for exclusive use of Canyon Ranch residents.



TREE-LINED streets and themed gardens are planned.

The community is fully integrated onto the commercial complex that blends sports and entertainment facilities. Also planned are restaurants and bars, gaming and entertainment areas, an equestrian school and a riding academy.

Very near are shopping destinations like the Alabang Town Center, the lively Festival Mall, SM South and Robinsons Mall. Nearby schools are De La Salle Canlubang, Woodrose and Brent International School.

World-class golf courses within the area are the Manila Southwoods, Sta. Elena and the Canlubang Golf and Country Club.

Inspiration

Distinctive is the inspiration for all homes at Canyon Ranch. All five house designs are carefully designed to cater to differing individuals and families. What is unique to residents at Canyon Ranch is the feeling not just of friendship but of shared enjoyment and relaxation that comes from being part of a close-knit group of like minds.

"At Canyon Ranch everything is well thought of—from the smallest details to make your house a home to the setting that makes your home part of the neighborhood to the neighborhood that creates a community," Antonio further says. Groundwork and construction development has commenced and the three model homes will be finished by end November of this year.

"Homes at Canyon Ranch not only reflect and complement their natural surroundings, they also carries a promise of peace, regeneration and renewal," says Antonio. "What's more is that it enjoys the ideal formula of location, quality and affordability," he ends.

Urban sprawl in the south

CAVITE is strategically located at the intermediate zone of the metropolitan Manila area. The urban influence of the metropolis together with easy accessibility, adequate infrastructure and fresh natural setting makes the picturesque province an ideal refuge.

One of the more affluent and spectacular places in Cavite is the San Lazaro Leisure Park. It's a rare and inviting part of Cavite characterized by rolling topography, endless vistas and an adventure-laden facility.

No wonder Manila Jockey Club in partnership with Century Communities Corp. took no time in quickly transforming part of these sprawling 17 hectares of premium land into one of the country's finest gated residential communities. "The city center of Cavite is quickly becoming the south's next super city. Its location and infrastructure as well as proximity and accessibility to Metro Manila have made it a gateway and suburb to Makati," says Century Communities COO Marco Antonio. He also quickly adds that even though Cavite is near to the Makati central, the city of Cavite still offers a breath of fresh air and country living.

Canyon Ranch

Perched on the foothills of Carmona, Cavite, and part of the San Lazaro Leisure Park, Canyon Ranch is a perfectly orchestrated master-planned residential development that combines the warmth of country living with the

URBAN/ B7

CALIFORNIA-STYLE homes

BE LIKE A RIVER
FLOWING
EFFORTLESSLY TO
ITS DESTINATION.
COME, ENJOY
A ZEN MOMENT
TO REFRESH
YOUR SOUL.

Bask in the quiet solitude of a riverside haven.
Breathe in the air of a prime Batangas wooded environment with rustic charm. Live a country club lifestyle that only others can dream of.
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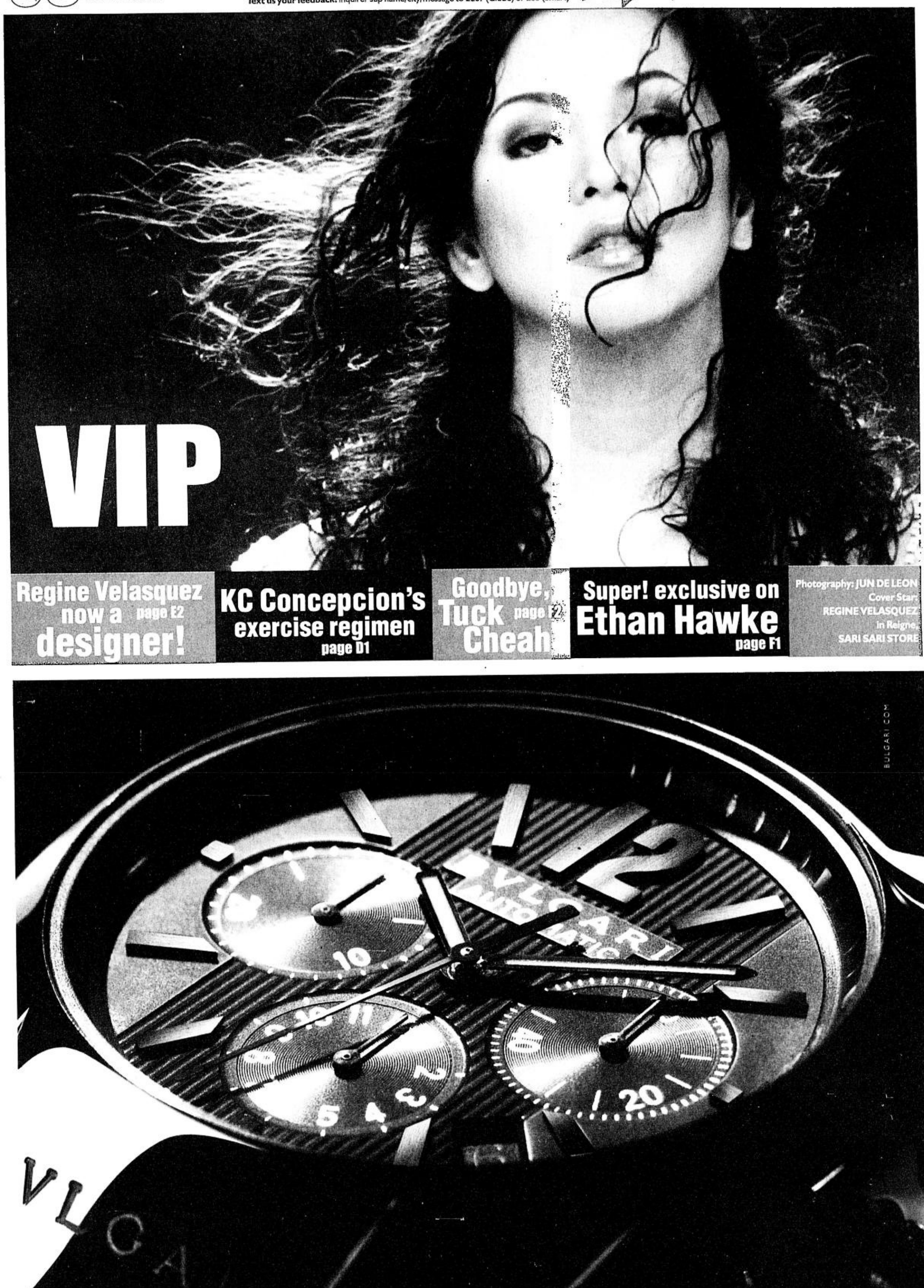
Super!Countdown

63 days 'til X-mas!



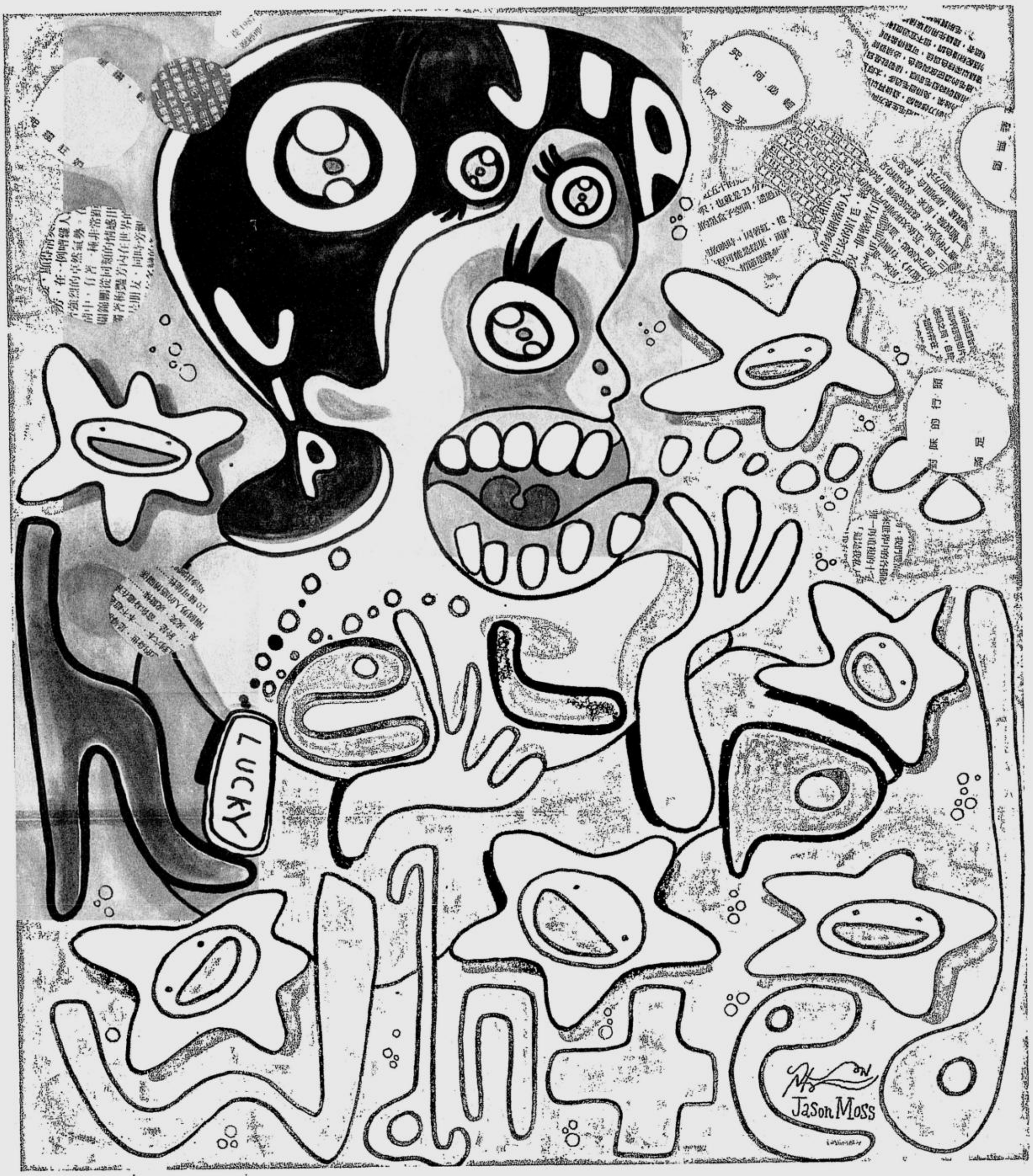
Regine Velasquez now a designer! page E2

KC Concepcion's exercise regimen page D1

Goodbye, Tuck Cheah page F2

Super! exclusive on Ethan Hawke page F1

Photography: JUN DE LEON
Cover Star: REGINE VELASQUEZ
In Reigne: SARI SARI STORE



Very involved people

Young people are dreamers as well as doers but to truly make a difference we need to make a commitment to volunteerism

Text by Gino de la Paz
Original artwork by Jason Moss

Party, party, party. Fun, fun, fun. The push and pull of youthful contradiction sometimes leads certain adults to believe that we merely treat life as one big thrill. And can we blame them? Individuals in their teens and twenties are at that point in their lives when the world presents itself to them undeniably and the options for self-indulgence often result in countless episodes of "Girls Gone Wild." Yeah, it's possible for things to get really out of hand. Like, really. So with the stigma of hedonism attached to youth, being called young can sometimes turn from a most wanted compliment into a totally dreaded cliché.

No matter what the expression says, however, I believe that all is not lost on the youth. We may be dreamers who have their whole lives ahead of them, but we are also doers who possess a level of self-awareness that may just surprise you. Being idealistic, we still have the confidence to make things happen and none of that it-can't-be-done attitude which typifies grown-up skeptics. Admittedly, we are not yet capable of donating huge sums to charity or doing anything obviously financial to help out. Still, we give enough of a damn to want to shape the world in a productive way. Today's Daily Double is, How?

The new nation-building

Volunteerism is defined as "performing activities of one's own free will that provide service to the community without monetary reward." If you've noticed, more and more young people across the globe are putting their get-up-and-go mindset to good use. They complement school, work, sports and a pulsating social life with volunteer activities.

Locally, several Good Samaritans have also transformed this ethic of community service from passion into action. The awesome people at Hands On Manila are encouraging us to put our money where our mouths are through a "volunteer service that allows for volunteering to be integrated into daily schedules of busy individuals." The process is a cinch: Attend one of their talks, choose a project that matches your interests, sign up, and yeah, show up! You can explore several volunteer opportunities, from helping clean up the Manila Zoo to cheering up some kids with cancer. If you ask me, it's not that hard.

Get up, get out, do something

"Get up, get out, do something." I just had to steal that line from a Macy Gray song because it sums up volunteerism without sounding like a Deepak Chopra/Oprah Winfrey platitude. It would also make a great slogan to galvanize a whole new generation of leaders, right?

Putting your name down now and pitching in to make your community a more kick-ass place is a great way to warm up some positive habits. We are bound to inherit the world someday but we really need to start effecting change as soon as possible. For sure, it's never too early to start. It's definitely so much easier to create an excellent foundation now while our values are still essentially under construction.

Calling all Super! readers with a golden heart

By Giselle Segovia

WANT to spend your free time in a fulfilling way? Hands on Manila will show you how. Come and join the day-long activities of VIP Day 2004.

Experience being a big sister or big brother for a day or help out in the Badminton for Street Kids program and get an extra reward for volunteering.

Join VIP (Volunteer in Person) Day 2004 at the NBC Tent on October 24, 2004. The day starts at 8:00 a.m. with several activities and games for kids including a giant slide and velcro wall. Big sisters and brothers get to take care of 100 streetkids and orphans to a whole day of activities. Families may join games lined-up for them to win exciting prizes.

There will be a Mass at 9 in the morning.

VIP Day will also serve as the launch of Hands On Manila's badminton program for street children. To kick this off, Olympian Weena Lim volunteered to host a badminton clinic at 2 p.m.

Everyone is also invited to pledge volunteer hours for auction items like an iPod,a Sony Ericsson cell phone, trips for four to Boracay, badminton lessons with Weena Lim, a photo shoot with Raymund Isaac, a styling session with Jenni Epperson, a tour of MTV studio with Sarah Meier, karaoke session for 12 with Vina Morales, a private movie party for 50 at myCinema, Imarflex appliance showcases, and many more exciting prizes that will surely bring out the volunteerism in you. Silent auction begins at 12 n.n., and the live auction will be at 4 p.m.

If you want to join Hands On Manila and discover the great joy of volunteerism, there will be orientations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

As Hands on Manila and Philippine Daily Inquirer strive to open the hearts of youth to volunteerism,they have found great partners in : Bench, Smart, SM, kiddieparty.com, Themeworks, Mirant, First Gen, Imarflex,Asian Spirit, Boracay 357, True Value, Digital Exchange, Enchanted Kingdom, Eon Inc. (the Corporate Communications Network), Quark Henares and team, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1 and Joey 92.3. We then give a big hand to you all for giving volunteerism a hand up!

We hope to see you there. After all, how often do you get the chance to make a difference?

This opportunity is waiting for you to seize it.

For registration or inquiries, you may call Hands On Manila office at 843-7044 or 843-5231 or INQUIRER's Marketing office at 897-8808 loc 259 or e-mail handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph or hsoriaga@inquirer.com.ph.

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HALLOWEEN TREATS
(no tricks)
Come & experience a different HalloWIN experience...
October 31,2004 (Sunday)
9:00 am onwards at Island Cove's Tejeros Garden
An all-in-1 activity where families can spend leisure time together while kids enjoy treats and bring home lots of goodies.
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Cream Cheese Stuffed Crust
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• 2 Cream of Mushroom Soup
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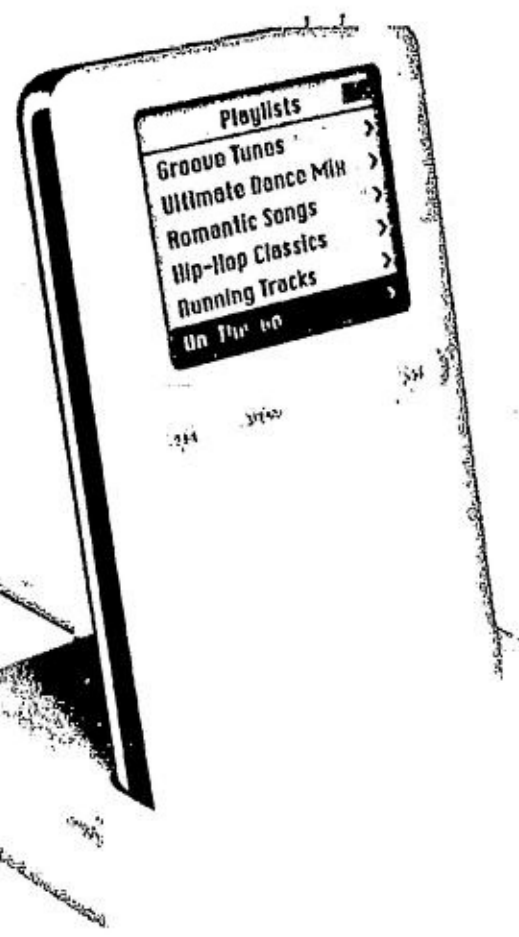
For just ₱299
Save ₱ 125!
Vist the nearest Pizza Hut restaurant. Available for dine in. Price subject to 10% service charge and local tax. Promo runs from October 5 to November 22, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 4708 series of 2004
Pizza Hut



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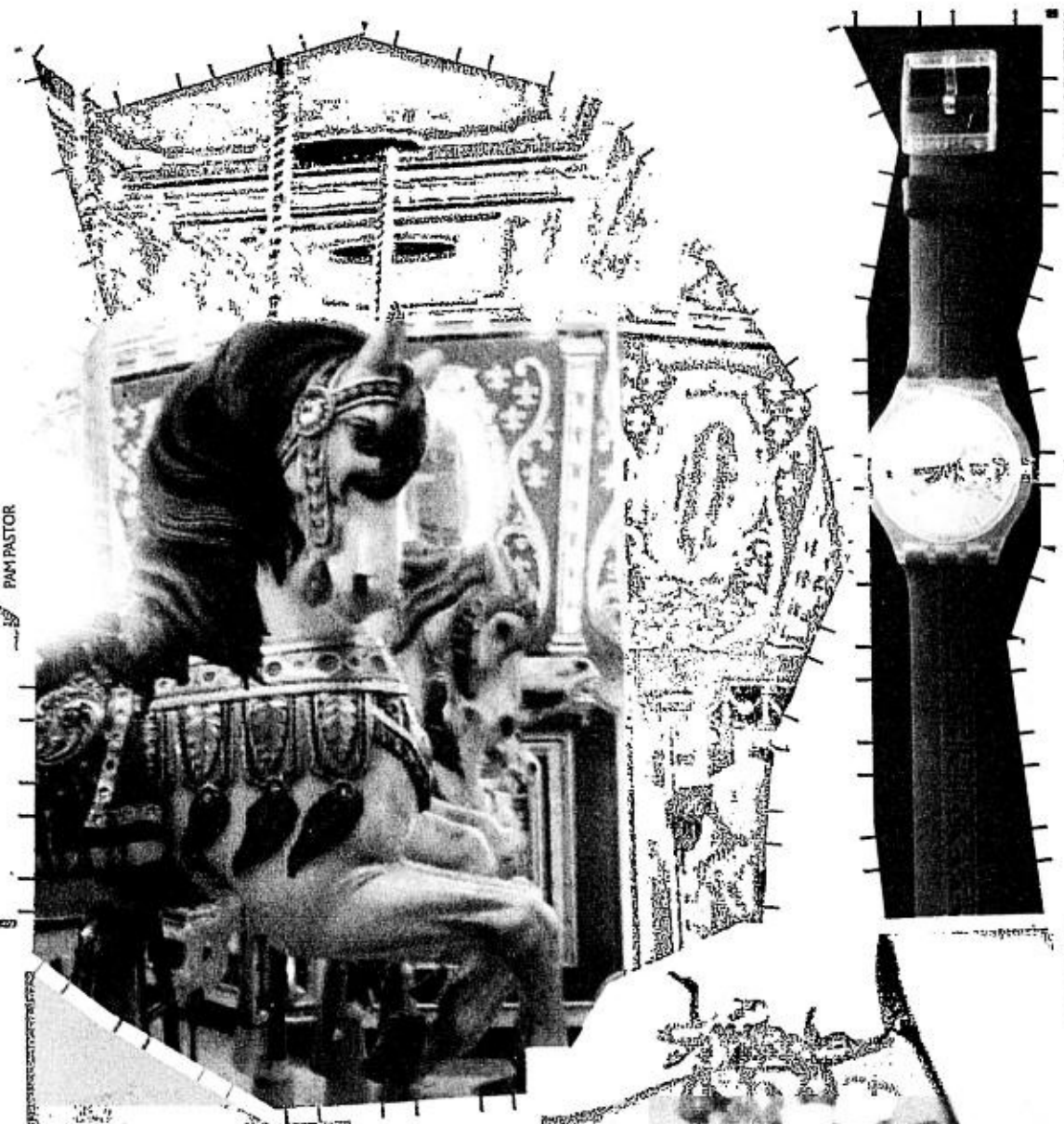

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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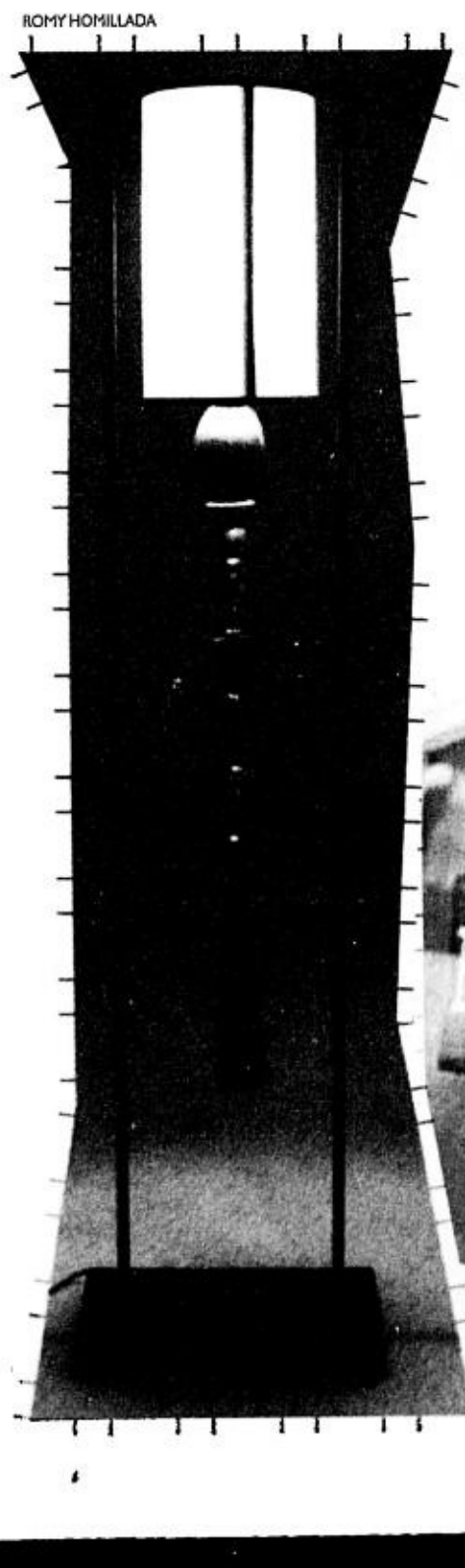

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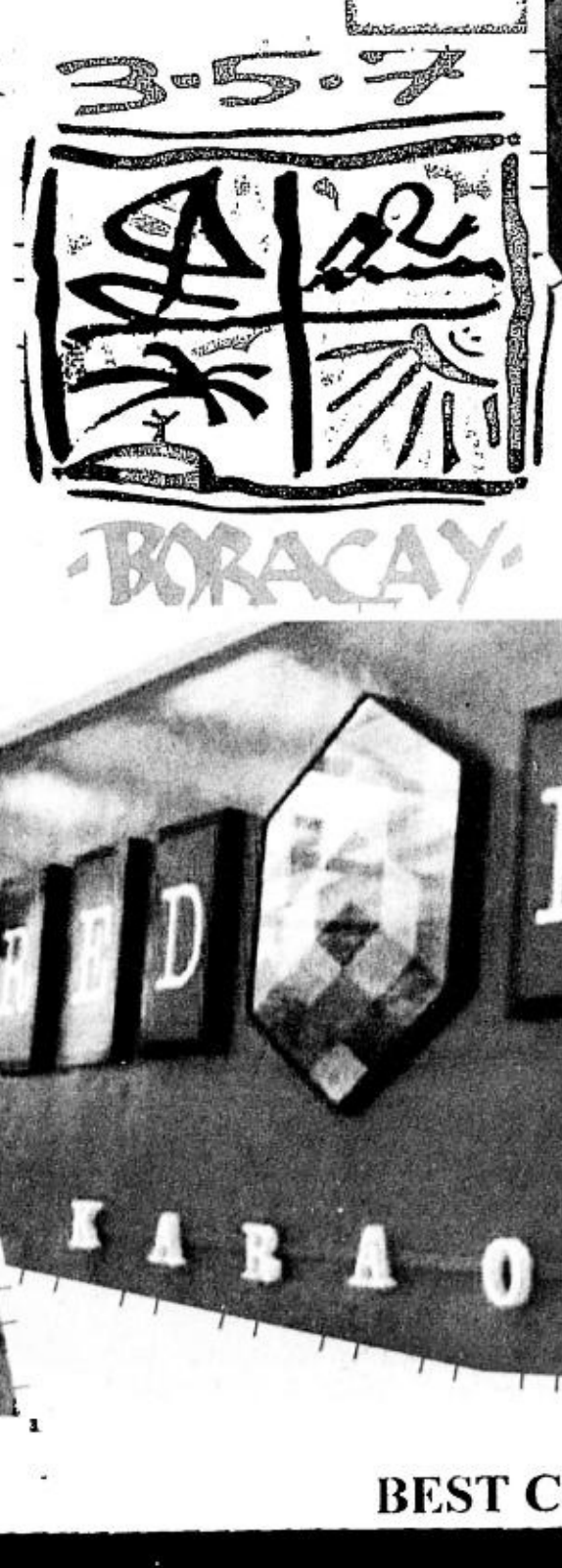

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

AUCTION CATALOGUE

A. Individual Bids

Item - Starting Bid
1. Wilson Badminton Racket - 5 hours
2. Sony Ericsson T610 cellphone (triband, MMS-capable, with camera, etc) - 25 hours
3. Beauty Bar Gift Basket with assorted beauty and bath products - 5 hours
4. Emu Egg Floor Lamp with Silk Shade Embellished with Semi-precious bronze from Cate D'Ivoire' and Murano Glass. Designed by Chito Vijandre of Firma Greenbelt - 15 hours
5. IPOD 40G - 20 hours
6. Three-strand bracelet of heart-shaped cultured pearls, Sardinian coral branches, green garnet and faceted citrines. Designed by Wynn Wynn Ong - 15 hours
7. Imarflex Rotating Oven - 5 hours

B. NGO Partner Bids

(maximum of 10 persons)
8. True Value Gift Certificate for P10,000 - 25 hours
9. Rustan's Supermarket Gift Certificate worth P10,000 - 25 hours
10. Personal Computer - 45 hours
11. Imarflex Appliance Showcase: Vacuum Cleaner, Dish Dryer and Microwave Oven - 20 hours

C. Small Group Bids

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12. Trip to Boracay for 2 persons via Asian Spirit. Includes 3-day/2-night stay at 3-5-7 resort with breakfast - 45 hours
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15. Laptop - 70 hours
16. MTV Group tour with Sarah Meier - 10 hours
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12 noon to 5 p.m.
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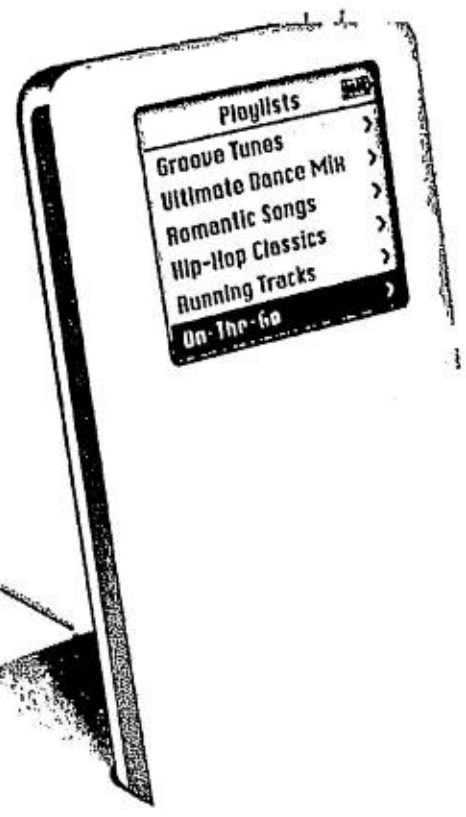

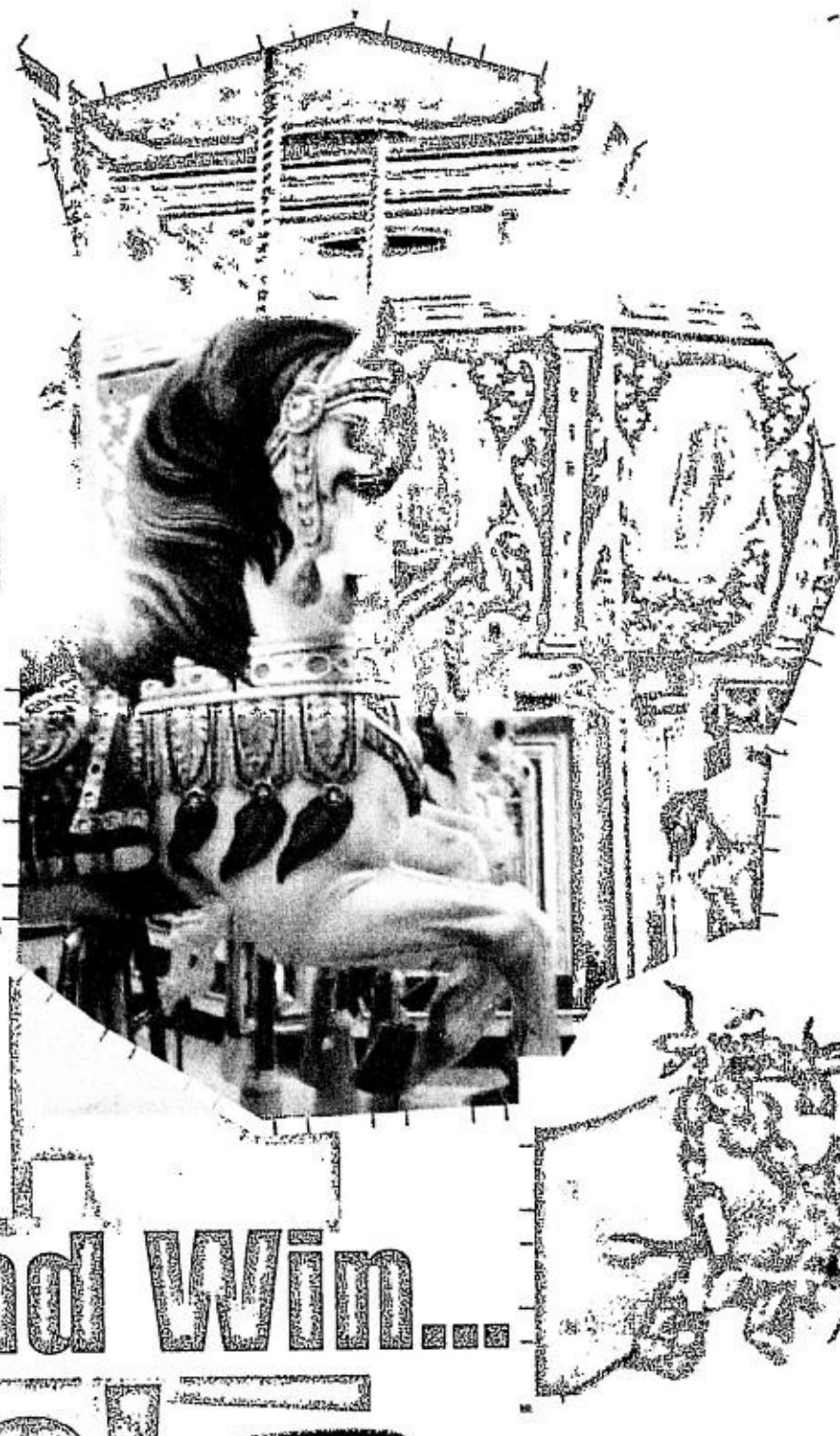

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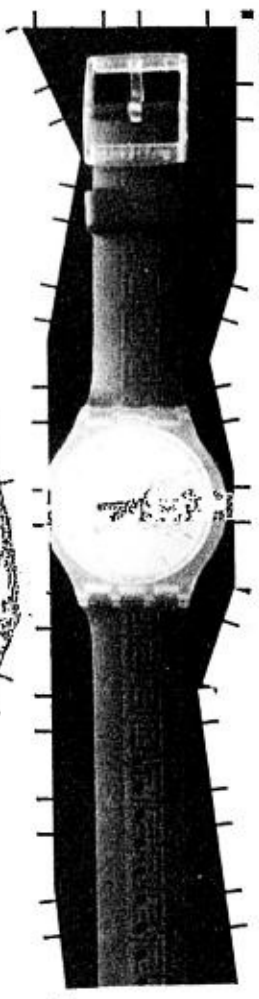

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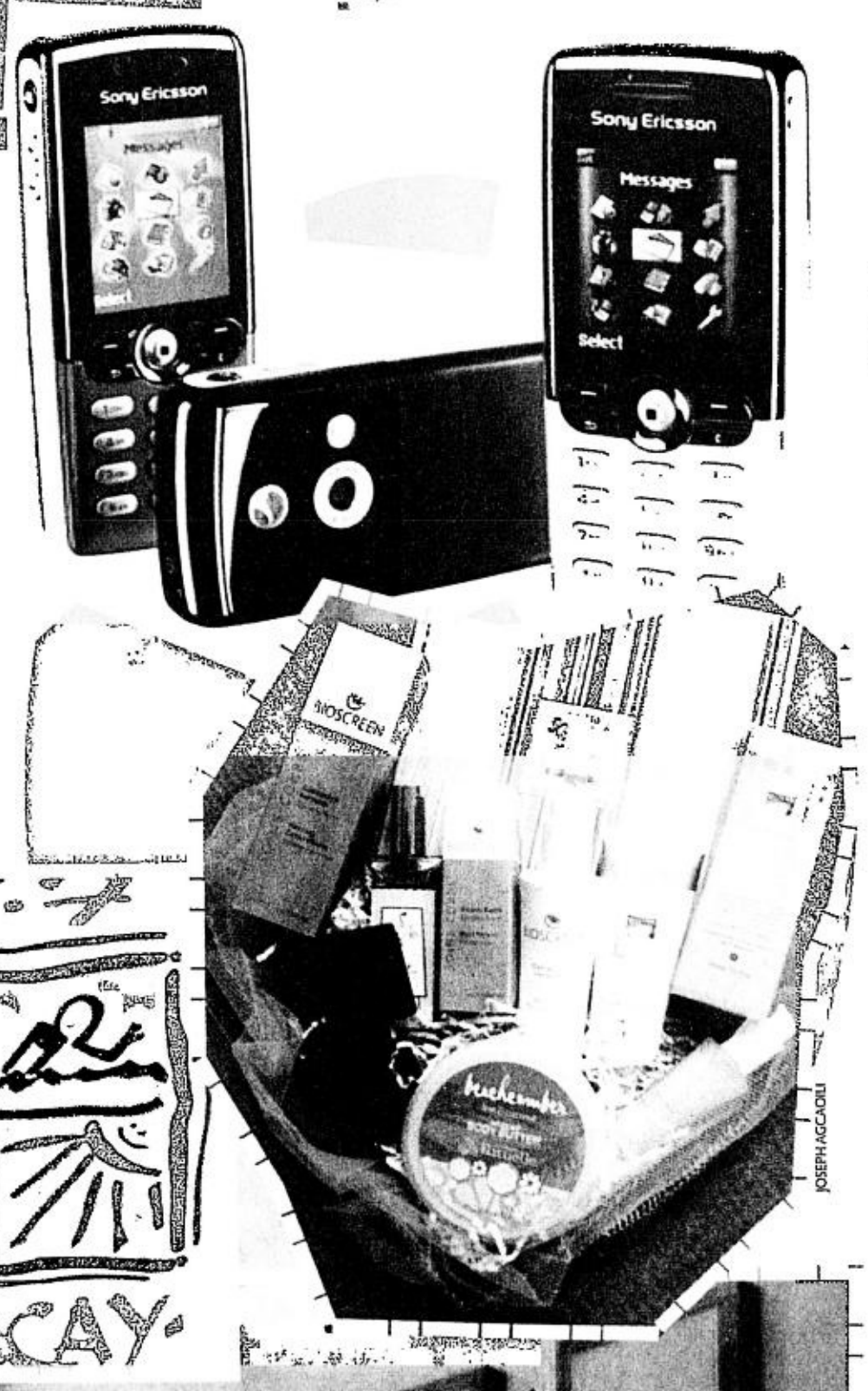

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Raissa Milana

To be a VIP means to be compassionate with other people.

My friends don't know that I care for people in orphanages.

If I were given a choice to volunteer, I would make myself involved in children's hospitals and foundations.

email me at: rais3201@yahoo.com

Terence See

To be a VIP means being cool and being selfless to others.

My friends don't know that I care for street children.

If I were given a choice to volunteer, I would like to be the President of the Philippines and reach out to all those people who are in need.

email me at: terence3201@yahoo.com

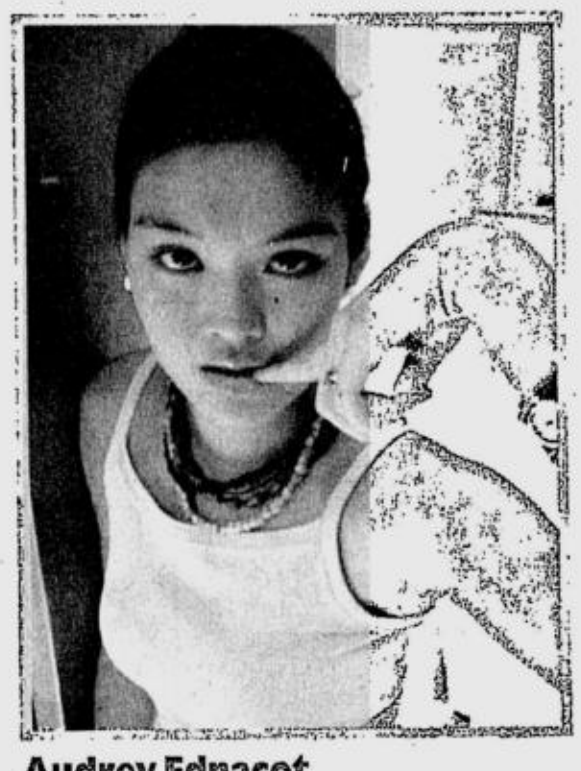
Siara Foo

To be a VIP means having the privilege and power to reach out to people.

My friends don't know that I care for them and the less fortunate people.

If I were given a choice to volunteer, I would bring my friends to go to different centers for the disabled people.

email me at: siara_ann@yahoo.com



Audrey Ednacot

To be a VIP means to share wholeheartedly, to be sincere in giving, and not doing it just to show off to others.

My friends don't know that I care for street children. And that I enjoy sitting down and eating with them.

If I were given a choice to volunteer, I would gather a bunch of homeless kids and treat them to Mc Donald's!

email me at: audrey_e_86@yahoo.com

SuperFriends!

Text and photos by David Milan

The term VIP is something that has to do with being rich and famous. But for us here in Super!, VIP stands for Volunteer in Person. So before the much awaited VIP Day 2004 at the NBC Tent, we looked out for some young, hip scenesters and asked them what it takes to become a VIP!

Karina Co

To be a VIP means having enough time to do volunteer work instead of wasting it with petty things.

My friends don't know that I treasure them. And that I love my boyfriend very much! Also, I feel for those kids who are homeless and weren't given the chance to study.

If I were given a chance to volunteer, I would grab my boyfriend and pretend we're married. After that, we would go to orphanages and treat the kids as our own.

email me at: kzc415@yahoo.com

Harvey Sy

To be a VIP means to have a big heart for everyone.

My friends don't know that I care for people who doesn't have anyone to hold on to.

If I were given a choice to volunteer, I would disguise myself as Superman and save all the people in danger.

email me at: harvey_nono@yahoo.com

Erica Abellana

To be a VIP means being a significant person to other people.

My friends don't know that I care for them and my family a whole lot.

If I were given a choice to volunteer, I would help out underprivileged kids to read, write and learn the basic things in life that they would need.

email me at: carla_angeline@hotmail.com

Oh caption my caption!

By Gino de la Paz

From Jasmine and Gloria to Jericho and Piolo, no one is safe from 'Oh caption my caption!' Bwahahaha...

"WISE men say..." Taken from a huge Elvis Presley hit, those three words date back to 1962 and belong to a song called "Can't Help Falling in Love." The same words made a huge comeback in 2002, when a remake of the song was included in a massive Disney animated feature. Now, what do all these boring bits of trivia have to do with our caption contest? We here at Super! suspect that you pop culture vultures had the same thing in mind when you sent it your entries last week. Are we right? Were your captions really inspired by the adventures of an offbeat Hawaiian girl/blue alien monster duo called—here goes—*Lilo and Stitch*? Ha! Man, our laughter echoed across the hallways of the INQUIRER building, making its way up to the third floor and disrupting a shoot for InqTV. Yes, it was that loud because, yes, your captions were that funny! Let's just hope that GMA also has the same sense of humor. (Just kidding, *Tita* Glo!)

Sifting through a mountain of emails, though, we couldn't help but think, why the hell didn't we think of that one? Moving on, we really have to give mad props to J.R. Nepomuceno whose excellent, concise punchline made us giggle, snort and hoot until our faces turned sore. Claim your free kiss, er, prize from our Marketing Department. Their hotline is 897-8808.

P.S. Not that our Super! loot doesn't cut it, but we're working our asses off to swing bigger and badder prizes for all you caption fanatics. Just you wait.

Here are the others that made the cut:

"Ohana means family" by Lilo & Stitch
Sender: Ress Gentolia

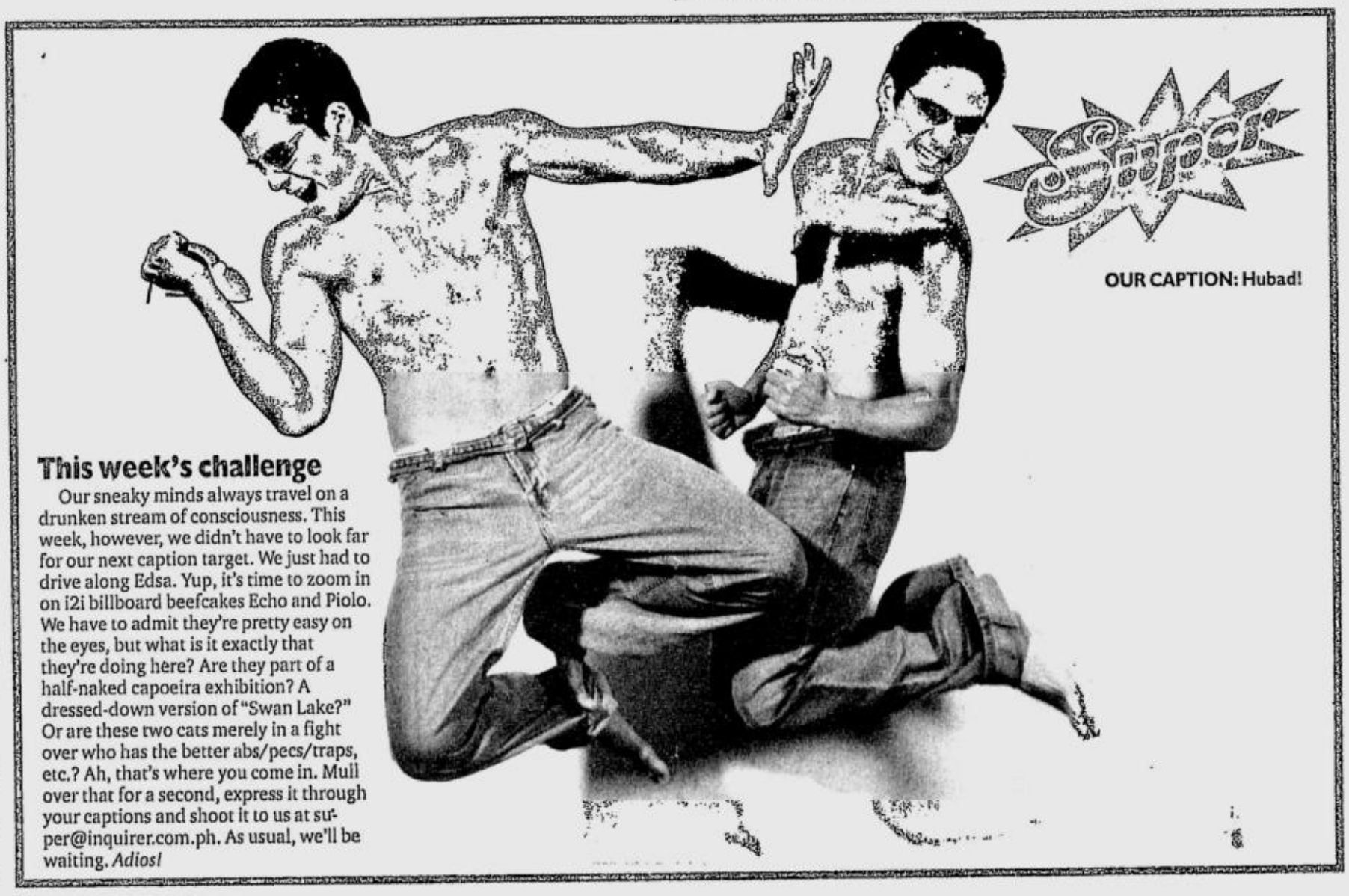
The Reunion: Lilo and Stitch
Sender: Anjelika Mae Guanlao

GMA: What's with the FLOWER?
JASMINE: What's with the MOLE?
Sender: Jowie Jeremias

JASMINE TRIAS—before and after her Philippine visit.
Sender: Limuel Abrogena

Who's the evil twin?
Sender: Rafael Domingo

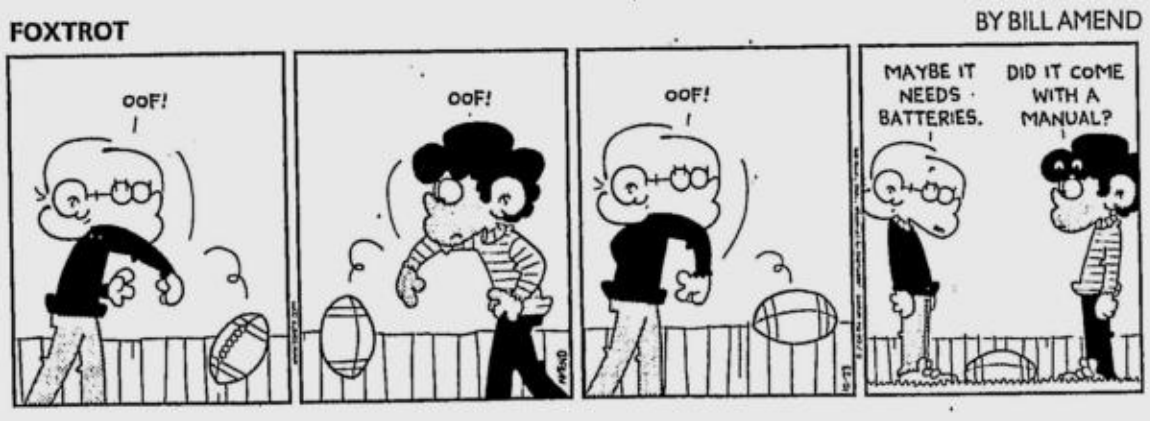
Winning caption: Lilo and Stitch
Sender: J.R. Nepomuceno



This week's challenge

Our sneaky minds always travel on a drunken stream of consciousness. This week, however, we didn't have to look far for our next caption target. We just had to drive along Edsa. Yup, it's time to zoom in on i2i billboard beefcakes Echo and Piolo. We have to admit they're pretty easy on the eyes, but what is it exactly that they're doing here? Are they part of a half-naked capoeira exhibition? A dressed-down version of "Swan Lake?" Or are these two cats merely in a fight over who has the better abs/pecs/traps, etc.? Ah, that's where you come in. Mull over that for a second, express it through your captions and shoot it to us at super@inquirer.com.ph. As usual, we'll be waiting. *Adios!*

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



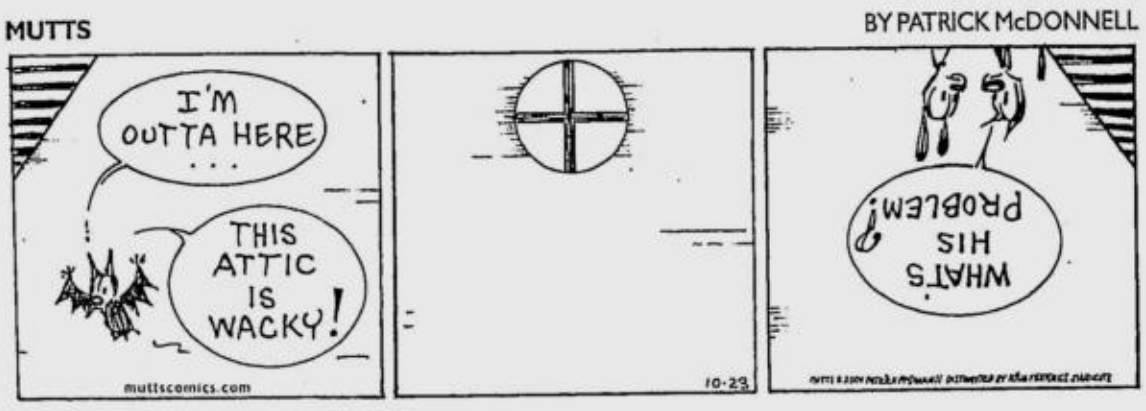
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

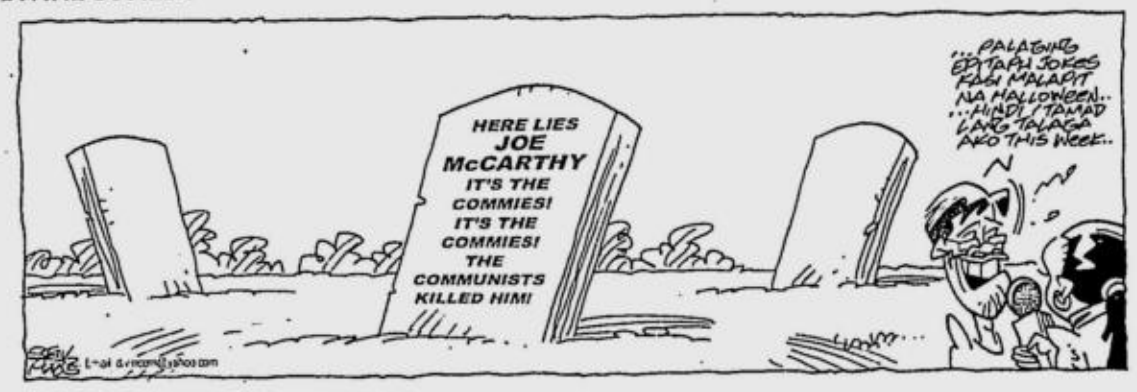
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're fast, quick, energetic and nimble. You improvise quickly, and you invariably have big plans for everything. You work well with groups because you're an excellent networker. Nevertheless, you want your solitude at times. You need to lead an active life. You have an important choice to make this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Pele, Brazilian soccer player; Michael Crichton, writer; Johnny Carson, former TV talk-show host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a very poor day to discuss anything important with partners, bosses or friends. Especially do not discuss financial matters or how to share something!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you're confused by what the boss wants, fret not. Today Mercury, the planet of communication, is out of sync with fuzzy Neptune. All communications are going south.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Things are extremely confusing at work today. Somebody is not giving you the straight goods. If you think something fishy is going on, it is!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can't trust your feelings today. You could fall in love with anyone! You're wearing rose-colored glasses that are completely out of focus. (Just for today.) Be careful.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Matters might become hopelessly confused at home today. The problem is that someone misunderstands you, or vice versa. Be careful talking to others. Be precise. Listen to what you say; listen to others as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You find yourself daydreaming a lot today. You're longing for pie in the sky. This makes it difficult to get down to work. Good luck!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is not a good day to go shopping. For one thing, your judgment is off. Secondly, luxurious items that you normally wouldn't buy tempt you. You can't trust yourself!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be careful of any kind of negotiations or business dealings. Someone could be selling you a bill of goods. People are sneaky and deceitful today. (They can't help it.)

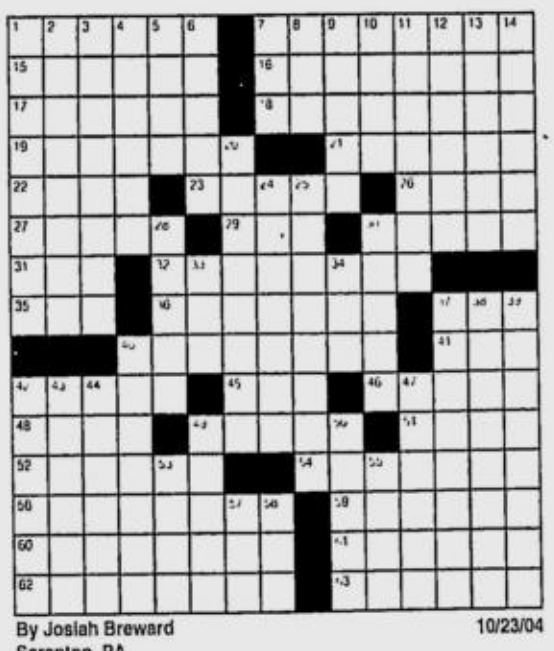
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might hold back information from someone today because you want to avoid a confrontation. Or maybe you just feel secretive about something. It's probably best to come clean.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you think a friend is stringing you along today, this is probably what's happening. Don't be too judgmental. All communications are very confusing today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If you have to talk to your boss today, be extra-clear in all your communications. You could be misunderstood. In turn, you might misunderstand somebody else.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The idea of studying something religious, spiritual or mystical now completely appeals to you. You feel like Merlin. You're the grand wizard! (That's OK. It's allowed.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

10/23/04

ACROSS
1 Cavort
7 Distensible sacs
15 Completely refashion
16 Of the Middle Ages
17 Old World lizards
18 Forest bird s call
19 Stronghold
21 Bet taker
22 Word used to distinguish sloths
23 Fall into disuse
26 Camper's quarters
27 Occupied
29 New Jersey cager
30 Full of marsh plants
31 Automobile
32 Walks like Snoopy
35 Ernie of the links
36 Composer Donizetti
37 Director Reiner
40 Fast plane
41 Spacewalk, to NASA
42 Star-like bloom
45 Journey segment
46 Alma __
48 Masticate
49 Challenges
51 Sharp-tasting
52 Movies
54 Dangerous current
56 In bondage
59 Dressmaker
60 More iron-willed
61 Actress Dahl
62 In a squalid manner
63 Brought up

DOWN
1 Perfect maker?
2 Provincial
3 Dabblers
4 Wanderers
5 Clothed
6 Ford failure
7 Ger. automobile
8 Blues guitarist Kottke
9 Unburnt brick
10 Legendary founder of Carthage
11 Means
12 Drew forth
13 Poll figure
14 Like icy weather
20 "Bad Company" co-star Frank
24 More insignificant
25 Camus novel, with "The"
28 Lawn maintenance tool
30 Violent outburst
33 Feedbag morsel
34 __ for the money...
37 Merchant
38 Carried too far
39 Traded without money
40 Adorned with gems
42 Means of entry
43 Japanese religion
44 Less relaxed
47 Huns' leader
49 Boy with a sling
50 Shankar's instrument
53 Location of Bamako
55 Scale down
57 Marine shocker
58 Lacking moisture

Friday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	M	B	S		S	A	G	O		E	R	M	A
I	N	E	R	T		O	L	A	V		D	E	U	S
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			R	E	B			D	E	N		U	L	E
W	O	R	L	D	S	E	R	I	E	S		R	I	B
I	R	I	S			L	E	S			H	E	N	E
L	E	G		H	A	L	L	C	L	A	S	S	I	C
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S	N	O	B		T	H	A	W		D	E	E	P	S

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10/23/04

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

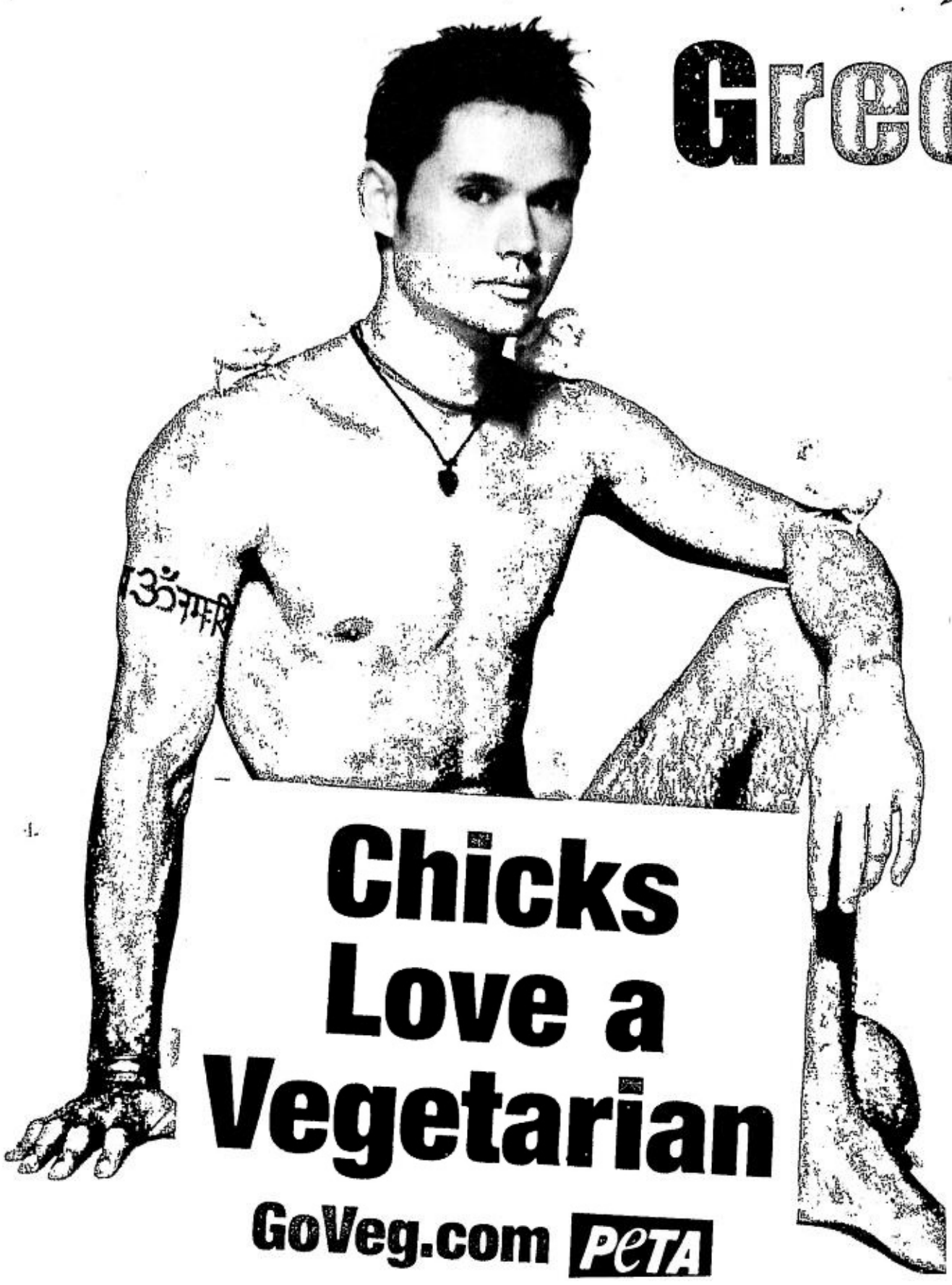
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Green-minded



To quote George Bernard Shaw,
"Animals are my friends, and I don't eat my friends"

By Raya Mananquil

I USED to hate vegetables. I would push them aside on my plate with my fork to make more room to slice my big, tender and juicy steak. Back then, I met my daily vegetable requirement by eating French fries and tomato ketchup. I thought I couldn't live without eating fried chicken, spaghetti and meatballs, hotdogs and burgers. Apparently, I can.

Today, I can't bear to eat anything that used to have a heartbeat. Vegetarianism has become not only a diet for me, but a way of life. I believe in living a compassionate lifestyle and having respect for all sentient beings. I am an animal lover, and to quote George Bernard Shaw, "Animals are my friends, and I don't eat my friends."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), has been making great efforts here in the Philippines to promote awareness of animal rights and encourage the vegetarian lifestyle. Many people are unaware of the cruelty and abuse cattle, pigs and chickens go through before they get to your plate. They are subjected to atrocious conditions and are tortured at slaughterhouses. Charles Darwin once said, "There is no fundamental difference between man and the higher animals in their mental faculties... The lower animals, like man, manifestly feel pleasure and pain, happiness and misery."

Another reason to ditch meat is for health reasons. Studies have shown that vegetarians live about 4 to 7 years longer than omnivores. They're also less likely to become obese and develop heart disease or diabetes. Contrary to popular belief, vegetarians are not physically weaker due to the protein deficiency myth. In fact, model Corey Wills is living proof of that. He says, "It would be pretty hard not to get enough protein on a vegetarian diet, unless you're eating nothing but candies and drinking soda. People don't realize how much protein there is in foods like pasta, rice, beans and soy products. Even potatoes are high in protein and for gym junkies, soy is complete in amino acids." Soy milk does the body good—and it shows with Corey, as this is his beverage of choice. He gets active through surfing, swimming, wakeboarding and rock climbing—definitely not your stereotypical vegetarian weakling.

Corey recently posed for PETA's new ad campaign surrounded by chicks—baby chickens, that is. Showing his veggielicious body, he holds a sign saying, "Chicks Love a Vegetarian." This was shot by Victor Consunji and styled by Faith Uy and Barbie Chan.

"I'm a vegetarian because I feel it is natural to be one," he says. In fact, scientific data have shown that the human physiology, digestive system and bodily functions aren't designed to eat meat. Our ancestors were actually vegetarians until they had to adapt during the Ice Age in order to survive. We are not equipped with sharp claws to catch our prey or canine teeth to tear flesh. Our hands are made to pick fruits and vegetables and "molar" teeth to chew them. "Put a rabbit and an apple in front of a child and I'll give you a hundred bucks if the kid eats the rabbit," someone once said.

"Animals do experience pain. Would you torture your dog or cat?" Corey adds, "The way I see it, all creatures have a right to happiness and they don't deserve to suffer the conditions humans subject them to just so we can enjoy a burger or a hot dog." When he found out the truth about the meat industry, he found it easy to quit meat altogether. "I just switched because of my conscience." PETA agrees that "No animal deserves to die for your taste buds."

So tonight for dinner, take a good look at your plate and think again. You wouldn't want your stomach to be a cemetery for rotting corpses, would you?

Video Fashion!

By Tim Yap
Photos by Frank Hoefsmit

THERE seems to be no end to art's magnetic attraction to maverick fashion.

Case in point, last week's showcase of "Au-delà du vêtement" or "Beyond Garments—Fashion Video... Fashion Moments," staged by Alliance Française in cooperation with the Association Française d'Action Artistique, The Young Designers Guild (YDG) and the Professional Models of the Philippines (PMAP).

Talking about fashion moments, there were a lot that happened that night at Greenbelt's Expo Exchange.

The pre-show YDG exhibit drew raves from the fashion-obsessed audience hungry for new avant guardians. The show itself, directed by Robbie Carmona, was an artistic success as the stage became an arena for new fashion ideas, merging video clips from French artists with a parade of clothes from young Filipino designers.

Right after the show, fashionistas stormed backstage, hunting for young designer finds while the models undressed. How's that for a video-worthy fashion moment?

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Supplement

Getting physical in Paris

SWEATING it out

KC Concepcion

IT IS madly liberating to be getting into the habit of substituting Metro with Bus, reducing the number of times of having to see the underground sights of Paris, which include graffiti, homeless individuals who should really be on their toes instead of on the ground, and, rather thankful that they still get paid a certain amount by the government as unemployed citizens, and the wide variety of commuting characters whose quirks, fashion sense, unique 'scents' and musically deranging tones of voice, one can still manage to draw inspiration from. And although it is starting to get chilly again, the city's charm has undeniable grown so much more lovable with each day that came and went. It might be a result of the dominantly peaceful and 'holy' nature of Ramadan (I have made some awesome Arabic friends here), but the four seasons have now become a really interesting reminder that although things change, some things just stay the same. Like my love for the tropical heat, and all the sun, skin, and rock and roll... Or the fact that when a freeze breeze hits (winter HAS officially started), you just have to think of the pleasure in having a huge, gigantic air-con in the middle of Edsa traffic... Or even the fact that I keep losing weight and gaining it all back!

So yeah... the cold does have a way of bringing in a lack of enthusiasm with the outdoors, jogging past stoplights and running around gardens to break into a good ol' sweat. These days, sweat isn't coming easy, which may explain what seems to be a 15 percent inclination rate of depression among certain warm-blooded locals, like me, whose bodies have decided to have a healthy tendency of storing unwanted fat to satisfy our natural demand for insulation. At times like these, you need... exercise! And since this is my column, I have the freedom to ask the question "Am I getting any [exercise]?" Well... today was a day of revelation. I looked in the mirror, walked away, munched on a bag of chips and realized this! (Pay close attention to routine.)

Exercise I got in the past 2 weeks:

Monday
Upper body workout
Rock music, live at le Nouveau Casino (props to Biffy Clyro for making me shiver with goosebumps non-stop)

Tuesday
Lower body muscle training
Elevator is stuck in front of my face on fifth floor

Wednesday
Biceps/Triceps
Urgent grocery shopping, 12 bottles of water and toilet disinfecting products prove to be heavy

Thursday
Breathing exercises
While visiting the Sewer Exposition appropriately located beneath the streets of Paris where they exist

Friday
Finger exercises
Piano class demands basic Bach

Saturday
Aerobics
Belly dancing all night long at club/restaurant to hot Arabic beats

Sunday
Rapid Eye Movement
God said "Let there be rest." In other words, "Colored dreams."

Monday
Upper body workout
Assembled new dining table, no manual (flew out the window)
Kids, don't try this at home.

Tuesday
Lower body muscle training
Rushing to class. Rollerblading in the winter rain, avoiding cobblestones (highly strenuous, as virtually impossible.)

Wednesday
Biceps/Triceps
Carrying my boss' huge stack of signed contracts (which could actually be useful for the "Triangle of Life" idea, if, for any reason, that earthquake creeps up on France)

Thursday
Breathing exercises
Taking in the sight of modern gym-goers as they seduce poles and strip for aero class

Friday
Finger exercises
Type-delete-type-delete as French keyboard amuses me, though drives me nuts (this

GETTING/ D2

IBIZA, IBIZA!

THE ISLAND of Ibiza is the absolute portrait that the word hedonism paints. People say that you have never seen a genuine party, until you've laid eyes on festive Ibiza—and what you see on Wild On E? That colorful display of undulating bodies and merriment do not even graze the basest of the little toe of the little thing.

And yet another event will testify on how privileged we are despite being a third world nation. No, it's not a free one-way trip to Spain and neither is it a world record for the most number of household television sets in a country. But, it is a momentous affair nonetheless. Ibiza World Tour is finally coming to our little archipelago and they could not have chosen a better time than the night for extravagant costumes and concealment, Halloween will definitely be an interesting occasion having Ibiza in Manila.

The third of a string of parties that Mint Manila has been offering people following Earthdance 2004 and last week's Nitro Party with Ricky Stone, this is by far the biggest of all. You should have a plan by today of how your attire will be because a week might be too short to produce a smashingly conspicuous outfit! Need any advice? You can always e-mail Tim here at Super! As you folks know, he's always in costume. If all else fails, there's always that plain white blanket.

Saturday, October 23

The popular and very talented father and son duo of Hiroshi and Masahiro Nitta are here to perform their shamisen music—to entertain and perhaps educate Filipinos on a different kind of genre. "A Captivating Night of Tsugaru Shamisen" is presented by the Japan Foundation and will feature the pair in concert with the Makiling Ensemble at 7:30 tonight at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater. Call up 811-6155 to 58 for details.

Sunday, October 24

Venture 7, the mother of all bazaar-organizers is opening their first for the season on this day at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The sale kicks off at 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. and then, after, you can hang out with beauty queens. If it weren't for the fact that these ladies are always so very nice and pleasant, coming to their victory party would be hell for me and for every female in town. Ms Earth 2004 will culminate tomorrow and all those beautiful women will be traipsing their way to V-Bar after the coronation to celebrate the pageant. Be there after 11 p.m.

Monday, October 25

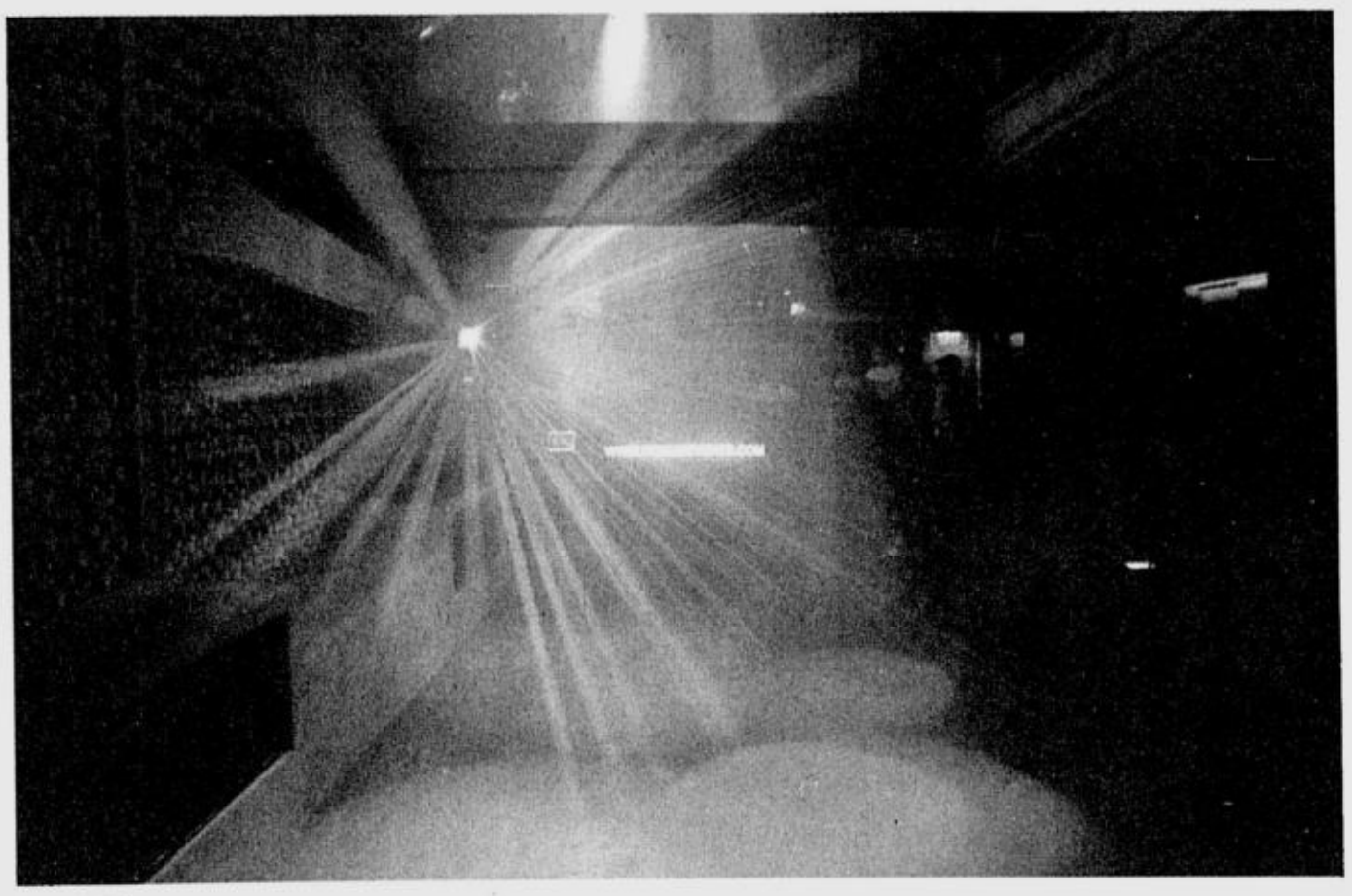
Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy finally meet each other again after hmm... has it been a decade? Almost, I think. "Before Sunset," the continuation of their first team up in "Before Sunrise" will tell the story of how these two characters see one another again years after the tragic misfortune of missing their agreed upon second meeting. You might want to update yourself again of the first flick before watching this one. This movie is showing in theaters all over metro, so grab a bag of buttery popcorn for more fats when you watch it.

Tuesday, October 26

Celebrating his anniversary, multi-awarded Bayani Ray Alcala is holding a one-man exhibit at the Galerie Joaquin. Entitled "Ligawan," the artist showcases 18 works that he has done for the past year under the theme of love and romance. The Galerie Joaquin is located at the lower grand level of the Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center. Do ring up 723-9253/634-7954 for more information.

Wednesday, October 27

If you have a heart, you should help others to fix theirs. "Revive" is a concert to raise funds to support the Heart Foundation in acquiring pacemakers for patients with heart problems. Bands such as The Dawn and the Akafellas have valiantly stepped up and will lend their talents on this night for this noble endeavor. Tickets are priced at P1,200, P950, P700. Call Libratto Productions for inquiries at 0916-6906399 or Music Museum at 721-6726.



IBIZARRE!

MAKE WAY FOR IBIZA. DJ Alchemic Storm

Thursday, October 28

Malang may be known for his love for color but in his new exhibit opening on this day, he will present a show that is unexpected but equally if not more thrilling and appetizing to one's visual senses. "Monochromatic Malang" debuts on this date on the walls of West Gallery in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Dial up 752-7028 for questions.

Friday, October 29

It's the last night for the Diesel Party Series at Temple Bar, their countdown to Halloween. Featuring DJ Johnny Verse and Bad Boy Jeff, it's a promising night for guests. Come in costume and you might just take home a free watch! And on the stroke of midnight, head on to Government as Kevin Ruiz pumps up the music at Hell Ball presented by Kokun. You'll be heading home at dawn on a night like this one.

Saturday, October 30

Mint Manila is at it again bringing in World Tour Ibiza on Hallow's Eve. The famed CD compilation has already toured all over the world and will touch down Manila finally in "Halloween Sessions," at the Premiere THX along Mile Long plaza, Makati City. The venue will be transformed into a gothic-inspired cathedral—the perfect background for the music that Paradise Ibiza's resident DJ Alchemic Storm will be spinning. He will be on deck to set this party into world order and show Filipinos a glimpse of Ibiza partying. Again, guests are encouraged to come in costume for prizes and for some fun. Don't be square.

The word for the bored:

"I'm going to college. I don't care if it ruins my career. I'd rather be smart than a movie star."

–Natalie Portman

OH YES! Make up for the men in your life.

Gaultier for guys

By Chabs Rubio
Photo by Jake Versoza

YOU SHOCKED a lot of people with "Le Male Tout Beau Tout Propre" Why did you come out with it?

John Paul Gaultier: What's so shocking about a men's beauty line? It's nothing more than a logical step forward for me! What could be more natural than to extend the "Le Male" perfume to a product line adapted to men's needs?

The packaging of your "Tout Beau Tout Propre" range was inspired by the traditional bar of soap. Why?

JPG: Because I wanted to highlight the clean, natural, healthy aspect of this product.

Why is the design of "Tout Beau" so different from that of women's cosmetic lines?

JPG: Because it's for men! Men don't want to spend more time making themselves beautiful than they do brushing their teeth. What's more, in addition to their virile connotations—the Zippo that adds a burst of moisture, the shaving brush that peps up the complexion, the anti-shadows-under-the-eyes pencil complete with kohl and the marker that strengthens nails—the products are all as straightforward and unfussy as a cheerful hello.

Hygiene and toiletries are okay, but cosmetics, how daring!

JPG: But men have always been preoccupied with their looks, by caring for their skin, camouflaging defects and enhancing their natural virility! Nowadays we can choose from a wide range of highly perfected techniques. So, why not enable men to benefit from them?

Do you think they're ready?

JPG: As soon as I saw men begin to dye their hair, shave their heads or simply break away from classical haircuts, I knew that it was time for me to forge ahead and that men were ready for a change that wouldn't automatically be assimilated with the gay government. Many men now make an effort to differentiate themselves and reveal another side of their nature. Some try body piercing and tattoos while others go as far as weightlifting or body building. It is, in fact, nothing more than a series of treatments for the face and body.

But aren't you making men even more of prisoners of their images?

JPG: Not really. Nowadays everyone wants to look as good as a rock star or a politician on TV. Tomorrow it will be something else. A concept of this sort was inconceivable 10 years ago when you had to put on a suit and tie to see your bank manager. Nowadays even he has a more relaxed dress code. Imagine what he'll look like tomorrow!

Why choose the image of a dandy to embody the "Totu Beau, Tout Propre" line?

JPG: Because a man who takes care of himself is a contemporary dandy. He travels, drives a motorbike, a car or a plane and has fun. He also wants to be elegant but not ostentatiously, more ironically, as if to prove that he's not fooled by his own game.

Do you think that men suffer from a chronic inability to treat or pamper themselves?

JPG: I certainly do. Glossy, healthy hair, piercing eyes that overwhelm the gazer, lips so mouth-watering you want to kiss them, soft smooth skin and well-cared-for nails—they are all proof of an assertive sensuality. What better way to facilitate communication between human beings?

I'll take Manhattan

I DREAMED I lived in Harlem with four gay men, on a street named after another dreamer.

Searching for a place to live in is an experiment combining the ancient and contemporary dimensions of human evolution. It is an activity rooted in the most primal of instincts required of survival, which is, the need to identify and occupy a territory. We search using standards that have not changed for thousands of years: location, security, accessibility, and affordability. Yet modern times call for modern measures, and the tools at our disposal for locating a place of residence are at the forefront of science and technology. Today we have agencies, Internet, classifieds, word-of-mouth and the random drive-by discovery. It is only through an effective coalescence of both the old and the new that an appropriate residence is eventually revealed. What better venue to discover how effective the new ways are when pitted against the demands of old than Manhattan, a city that embodies both to a savage degree?

Before even arriving in the United States, I had been advised to begin my search for a residence by scanning the various Internet search engines and online classified boards for available apartments. As I did not have a job waiting for me right away, I would have to take into consideration my tight budget, which means I would have to consider sharing apartments, and possibly, live outside Manhattan. And even if I were fortunate enough to find a place within my budget and within Manhattan, it may not be in an ideal part of the city.

New York is a state on the east coast. While popular media has made the name synonymous with the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, and Broadway, these iconic landmarks are actually referencing Manhattan, the elongated "island" bordered by New Jersey and the surrounding boroughs and cities of New York. Manhattan itself is sectored into several areas divided by invisible grids, and each area is characterized by its own distinct flavor. To reference the aforementioned landmarks in a geographic context as examples: Broadway is an avenue that runs like a longitudinal spine for most of Manhattan, Times Square is a gaudy tourist Mecca in Midtown West, and The Statue of Liberty isn't even on the island of Manhattan.

Anyway, after taking all factors into account, I had decided on an apartment with a maximum monthly rent of $700, located anywhere that was within a 40-minute commute to the proverbial center of the city, Grand Central Station on 42nd Street. Now, all I had to do was find it. My search began through word-of-mouth by asking current residents of Manhattan (mostly Filipino friends who had relocated years ago) for any availability. Results came back negative, which goes to show how few real friends I have. So I went on Craigslist.

For those not in the know, Craigslist.com is a free Internet board which hosts one of the most impressive classified ads servicing the whole of the United States. One can literally find anything on this site, ranging from upcoming events, activity partners, real estate, auctions, freebies, romance, airline tickets and kitchen sinks. We NEED a service like this in Manila.

Browsing into the "Real Estate for rent" in the New York section of Craigslist, I entered the maximum rent I was willing to pay on a monthly basis, and specified Midtown and Lower Manhattan as ideal locations. Out of the millions of people living in this city, two responses returned as fitting my request parameters, everything else was just too expensive (some were asking close to $2,000 for a one bedroom in the West Village—that's over P100,000 a month for *kama* and *kubeta*). And the two ads that posted an attractive price range? One of them went like this: "Gay man looking for hot, straight roommate. Must be willing to be serviced from time to time. $300/month." The other ad required the candidate to be female, hygienic, a good cook, and open to weekly rituals involving a hockey team. Rent was free, though.

The big difference between apartment hunting in Manila and New York is the time factor. The price isn't that much different because you can find cheap rooms and expensive rooms in both cities, given you have time to search for the best deal possible. Of course, it's all relative to how financially stable you are, and how much you make in your career. But while Manila allows you the luxury of living with relatives, and having connections, and the familiarity of locations, New York does not (at least for most of us New movers). I had to make a decision based on my projected (meaning non-existent but ideal) wages and second-hand information. And so, after two weeks of scouring Craigslist and traveling to distant boroughs, I found myself outside a suspicious building in the east side of Harlem.

The ad had read: "Furnished room available in four bedroom apt in Upper East. Clean, all appliances, Internet, utilities included. Must be gay friendly. 650/month."

The building was a disaster. Doorbell didn't ring. No front doorman (actually no front door). Faint smell of urine in the ground floor. Elevator was busted. Strong smell of urine in the hallway. Broken glass vials on staircase. Graffiti from some guy named Deebo on every floor. I would tell my mother that I was fine, I chanted.

But the inside, like so many pleasant surprises in life, was quite nice. Clean, with all appliances, a furnished room and friendly gay tenants. Just like the ad promised. On top of all that, I also had a great view of Marcus Garvey park on one side, and a window view of Lennox Avenue on the other. Lighting cigarettes to symbolize our new living arrangement, my new roommates and I quietly chatted away as the setting sun disappeared behind the cannabis plants perched on the windowsill.

There are a lot of stories to be told in here, and the phantom tales that happily haunt this apartment are just waiting to be exhumed. And I think I will be adding my humble history to these halls, signing my name beside Deebo's. For now, this is where I live and this is where I dream. For now, this is home, with four gay men on the seventh floor of a building beside Martin Luther King Drive. As I recall he dreamed, too. From the window, I see a peculiar Harlem, one that is saturated with history and character, absorbing the dying rays of the sun into its burgundy bricks. Sometimes, all it takes is a different view.

Email the author at lasengnomad@yahoo.com

Getting physical in Paris

From page D1

is where Q is A and ; is M)

Saturday

Rapid Eye Movement

Doing Nothing, Really.

Sunday

Full body workout

Don't be surprised about the household chores. I am nothing but a second rate, trying hard Cinderella copycat!

Monday

That's it.

I decided to go to the gym.

I may be a late bloomer, but I am maturing into a woman who is not afraid to come to terms with the fact that she has been in absolute denial of living just 50 steps away from an actual, functioning gym. My new friend, Club Med, with 17 branches all over the city, can get this butt back in shape and save me a whole season of running from stoplight to stoplight, which shouldn't be top priority on the workout list for three reasons:

1. Running the risk of getting madly wounded by a slick, little Vespa scooter.

2. Maps ruin momentum. I-get-lost.

3. Each year, more than 600 people are admitted to the hospital after slipping on dog poo in the streets of Paris. Thousands more have minor catastrophes.

Now, other options of getting rid of this winter fat are the following:

a. S.O.S. elimination of all image-distorting mirrors in apartment

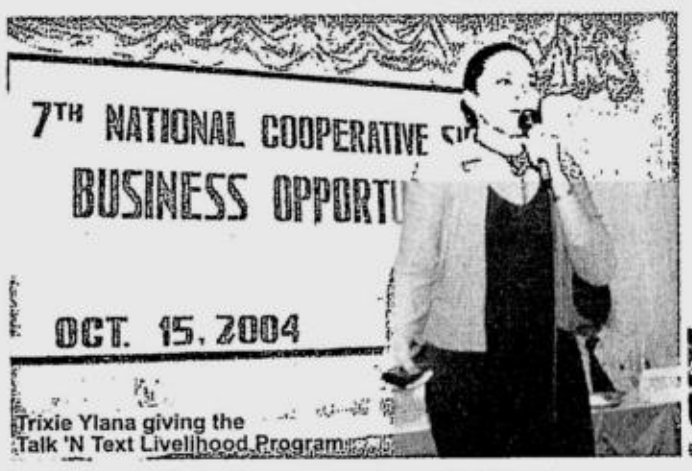
b. S.O.S. elimination of all food items currently hibernating in refrigerator

c. S.O.S. elimination of the government's expenditures of E1.5 million annually on cleaning up after dogs (they have actually created crap-cleaning moto-crottes), which is clearly virtually impossible if you want things to happen in the next few days.

If you agree that a gym membership is the best way to go, throw your hands in the air, wave 'em like ya just don't care and say HEY-OOO! Life is like a bowl of *pancit*. Ya never know watcha gon' get, but ya gotta take big bites anyway!

ENOUGH said

BACOLOD CONVENTION PLAZA



Trixie Ylana giving the Talk 'N Text Livelihood Program

Inquiries at the Talk 'N Text booth

Registration at the Summit

Talk 'N Text Partners with Government and Non-Government Organizations for livelihood opportunities

Livelihood Programs to the Rescue

Many of us today are looking for greener pastures. With the current economic situation in the country, it is not surprising that many do not have jobs or even if they do, the income they bring home to their families is usually not enough. How do we help ourselves sall pass this crisis?

Talk 'N Text has come up with a simple solution that has been around for many years. Livelihood programs provide a source of income for many Filipinos. Through these programs home businesses may be started and maintained. Talk 'N Text partners with government sectors and private organizations to provide business opportunities to those who are in need of them.

Just last October 14 to 16, 2004 the 7th National Cooperative Summit in Bacolod City was held at the Convention Plaza. Cooperative members and other special guests were invited to come together to discuss business opportunities and nationwide networking. Talk 'N Text was there in support of the project and gave a presentation on its own livelihood program. Workshops like this addressed the varying needs of the participants, which include business awareness and education. With almost two thousand participants, the summit closed after three whole days of successful dialogue and interaction.

Talk 'N Text is committed to continue its efforts in partnering with government and non-government institutions to help provide a continuous solution for those in search of a better future.

Manny on Entrepreneurship

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-- Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT and SMART Chairman

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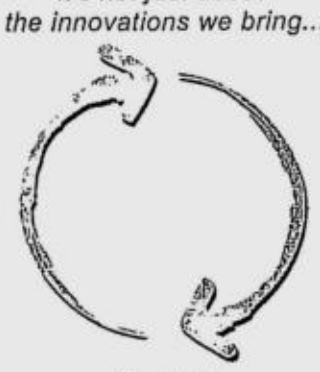

It's about the opportunities we provide.

TALK 'N TEXT

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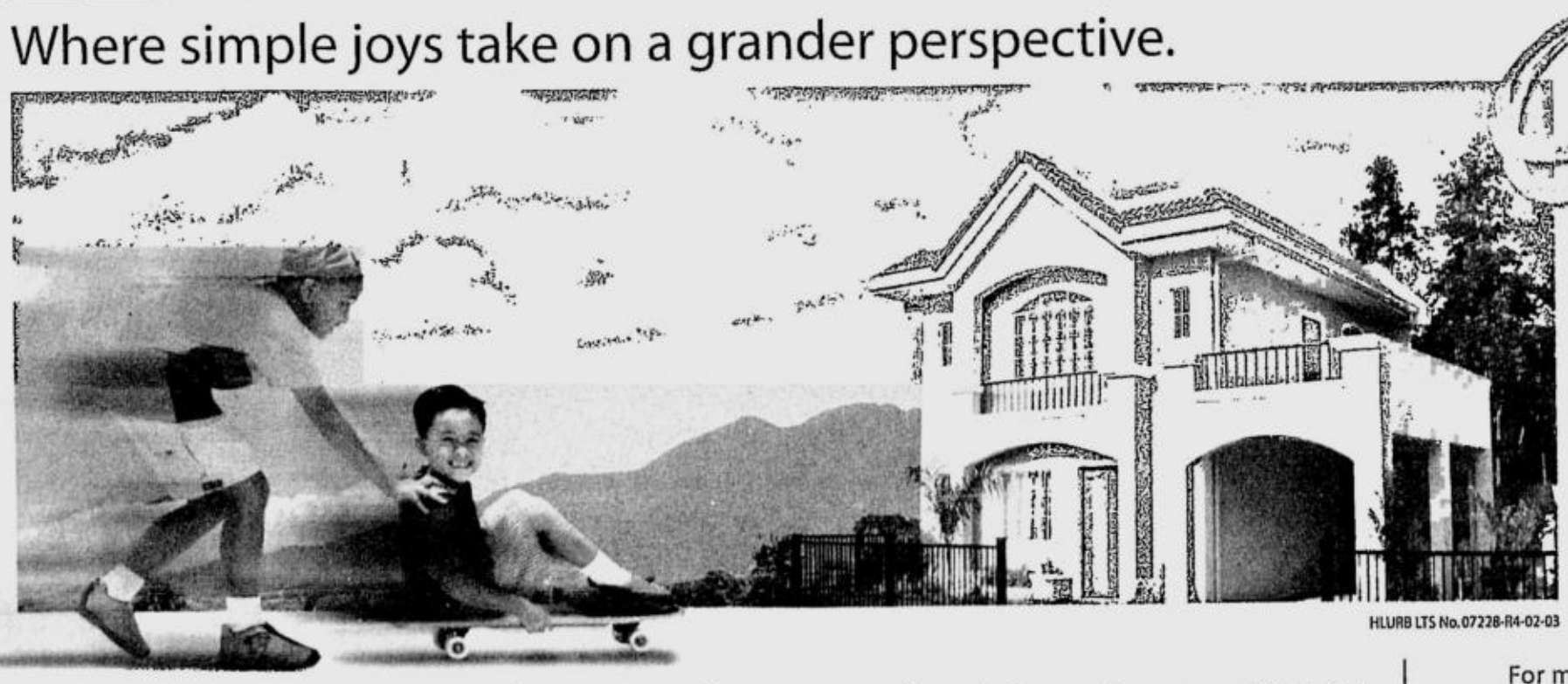

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LOGOS

L1 L2 L3 L4 L5

PICTURE MESSAGES

P1 P2 P3 P4 P5

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W1 W2 W4 W6 W7 W9

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Super

Mom, I think I'm a technosexual

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

The "T" word is all about the love for gadgets, electronics and an urban lifestyle

MAJOR. Bummer.

Those two words kept flashing in my head over and over as I had a near-meltdown of Woody Allen proportions the other night. Given the choice of other more involved and slightly beefier cuss words, my reaction could be considered too sedate for our reality-saturated times. Trust me, I wanted to wreak something of the fire and brimstone variety—say, kicking down doors—but I was too busy hyperventilating to deal with the situation like Bruce Lee. Besides, it happened at two in the morning. The cause of this sudden, numbing horror? My computer crashed!

I was chatting on MSN with some buddies from Quebec, Belgrade, and, well, Makati City when it happened. If you practically live online like I do, you would be familiar with the schizo scenario: opening multiple Messenger windows, downloading music from Kazaa, and throwing down comments in blogs all at once. You get it, right? Apart from that, I was also typing up something potentially brilliant in Word, so imagine my anger and helplessness when the monitor unexpectedly turned blue. It's something a high-waisted Trekkie would say—no offense—but I was crushed when I found out my computer was done. At that millisecond, all my photos, essays and other important documents went down the crapshoot, accompanied by an arsenal of white label MP3s (translation: extremely rare remixes) that I gathered from the golden age of Audiogalaxy in 2000. My Pentium personality has never experienced such a heartbreaking loss. Or maybe it has. Hmmm.

As I did the aftermathematics—calculating one's losses following an unforeseen tragedy—I realized that it wasn't the first

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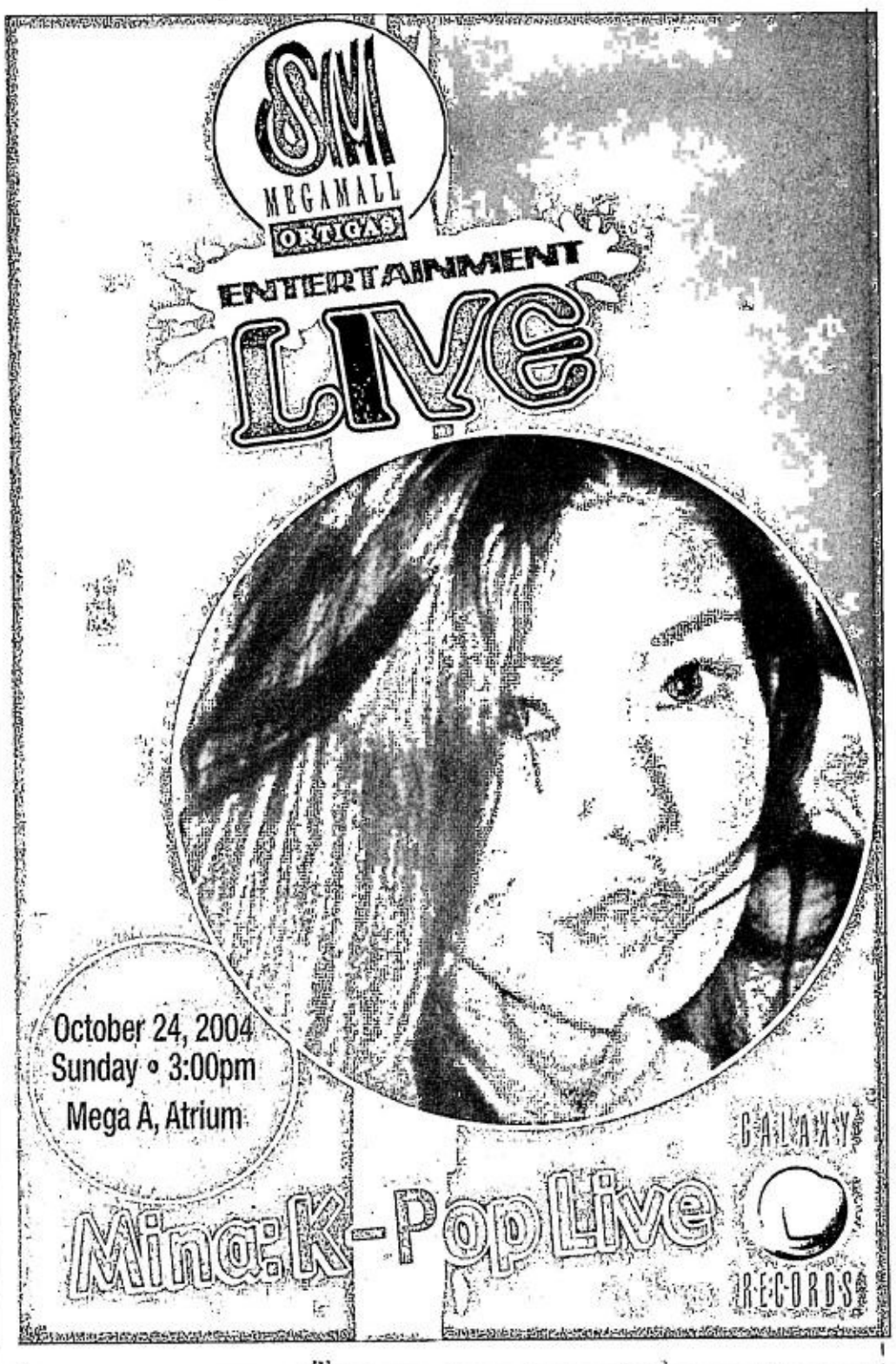
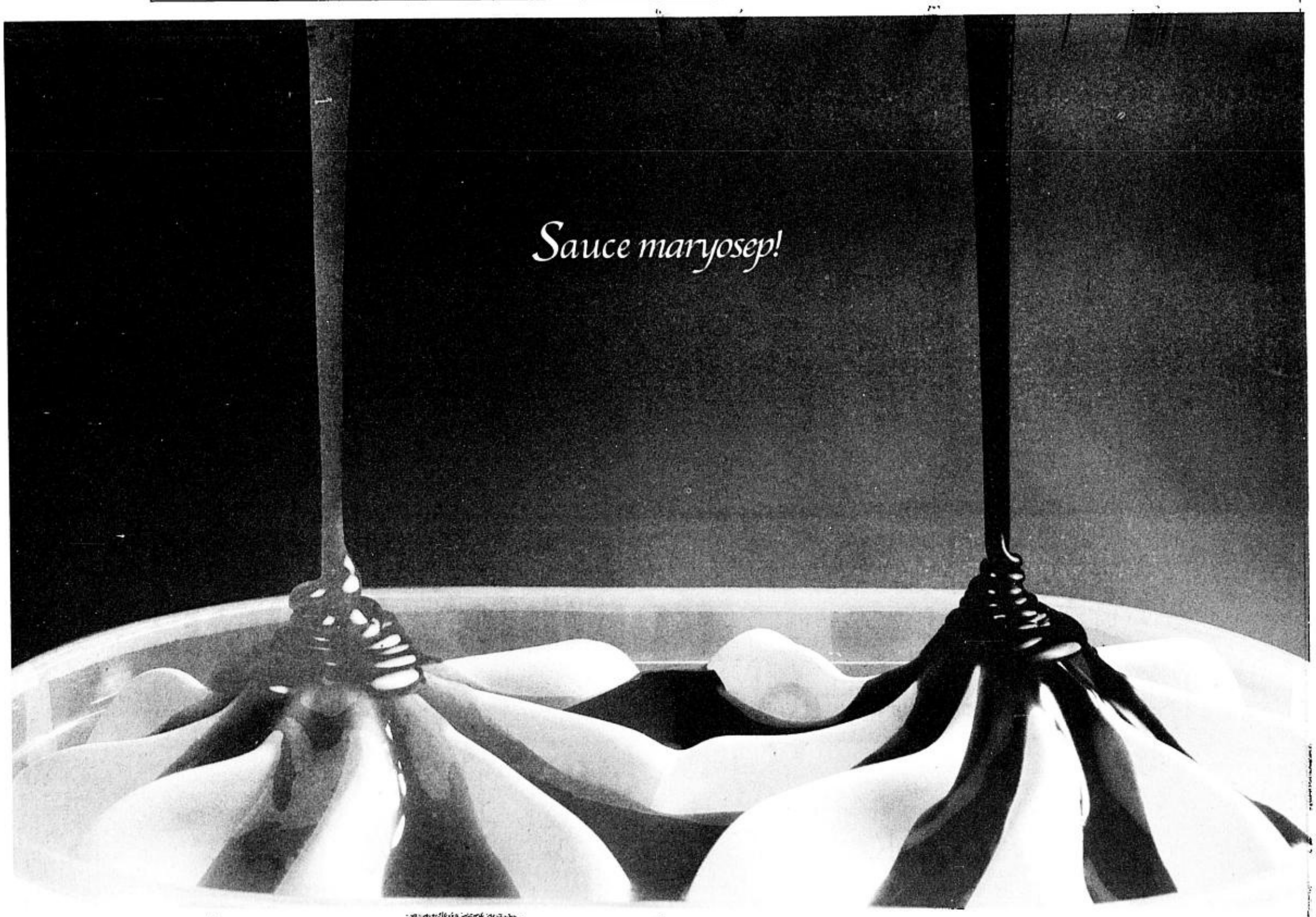
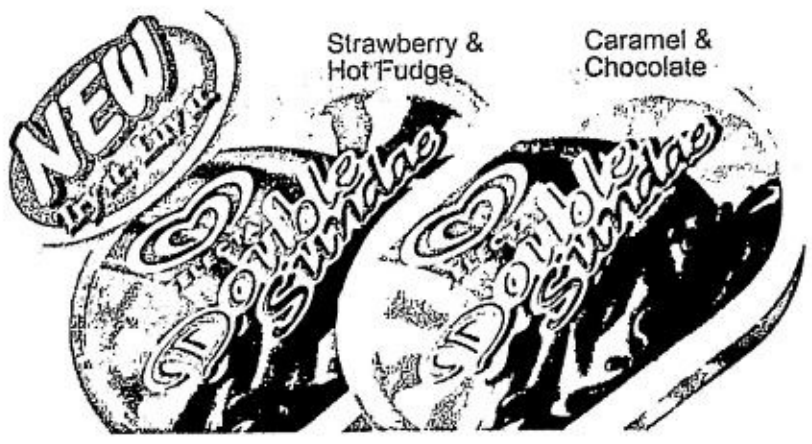
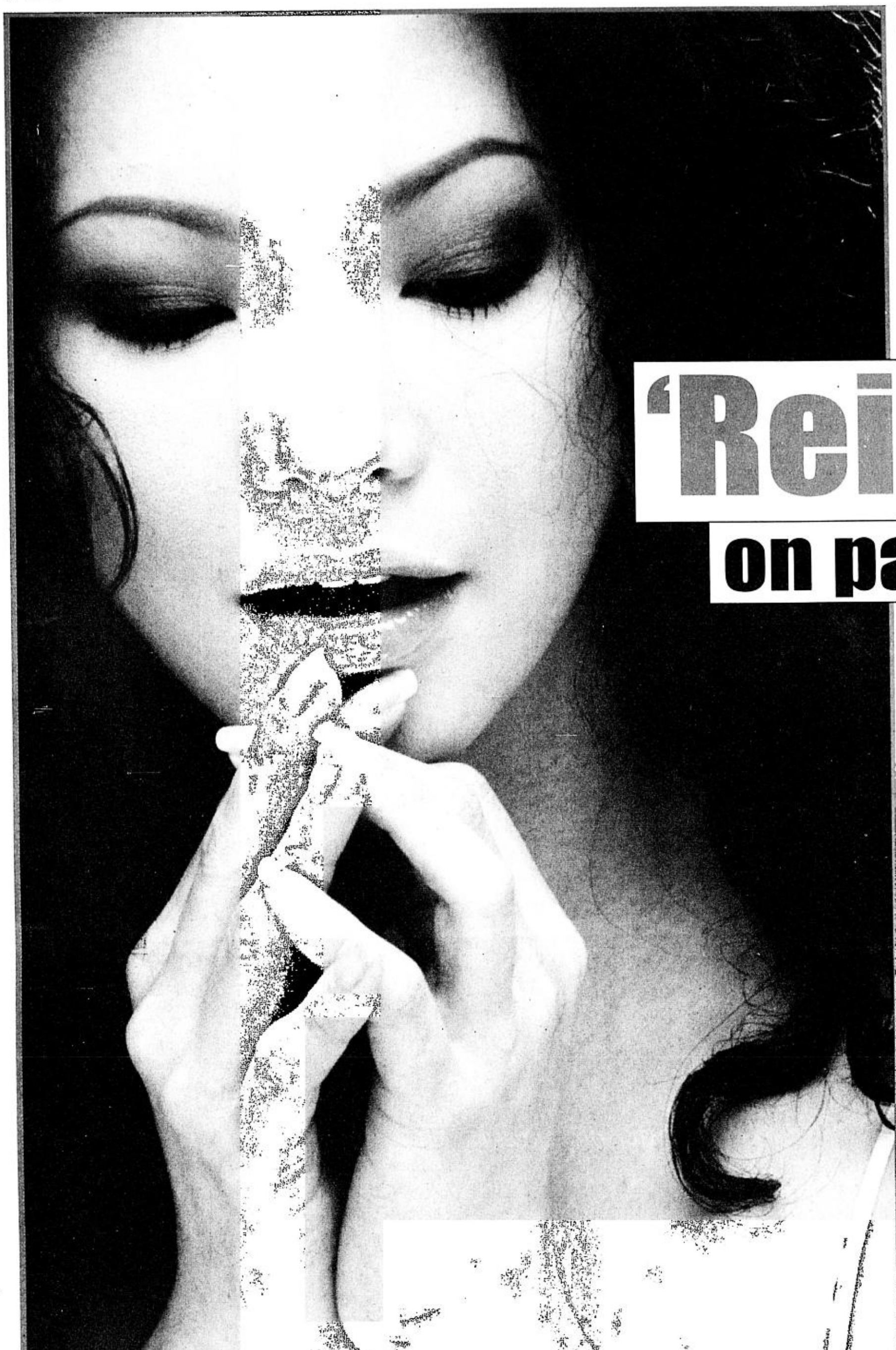






Sa halagang ₱*99 lang, umaapaw ang chocolate, caramel at strawberry sauce sa pagkatakam-takam na double sundae!*

SELECTA



'Reigne' on parade

By Tim Yap
Photos by Jun de Leon

SHE may have gotten flack from some prude televiewers for flaunting some flesh, but one thing's for sure, Regine Velasquez will always make a statement—loud and clear.

Even from her "immerse-in-the-river" vocalization days, Regine has been known for stretching the boundaries and driving it to fever pitch, glass-breaking decibels. Her fashion sense causes much debate. If Bob Mackie had a Filipina muse, then she would be it. All out—is how I would describe it—whether belting out a tune or donning the right dress, the songbird does not do anything half baked.

I have long admired this luscious lass from her Louie Mamengo long gown glam days to her present Rajo Laurel revealing "bare-it-all" for the masses glitz. She knows her stature and will mince no words (or clothes, for that matter) in order to prove it.

Lifting a page from J. Lo and Beyoncé's fashion empires, Regine puts her hand into designing clothes for divas and would be divas. Her line, made available by Sari-Sari and produced in Hong Kong. is playfully called "Reigne."

With sophisticated cuts that offer subtle (and not-so-subtle) peek-a-boos of flesh, her initial collection is designed with a particular woman in mind—someone who is not afraid to stand out in a crowd and celebrate her sensuality—very much like the designer herself.

"It's a great collection comprised mainly of classic black, with sensuous silhouettes tailored from soft fluid fabrics. Reigne's first collection has separates like sexy off shoulder tops and mini skirts and cocktail dresses that will make you feel like a diva—and not just look like one," said Sari-Sari's sartorial songstress Denise Albert.

Not to say that she is not the same humble girl we saw on TV competing onstage pre American Idol. pre Pinoy Pop Superstar, pre Star Search eras. I'm sure every time she gets to escape the kleig lights. she would opt for a giant T-shirt and jeans, sans make up—and just enjoy herself. But for now, it's all glam, glam, glam.

Gullible's Travels

Man about town

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

I have this friend that I am having a problem with. He is somebody I have known for a very long time (we met when we were children), and our families are very close. We have always gotten along although I would not consider him one of my best friends simply because we never really spent that much time together aside from family gatherings. A few months ago, he approached me and asked to borrow some money (about ten thousand pesos) for some kind of emergency he could not go into detail about, also requesting that I not tell anyone about his situation. He promised to pay me back as soon as possible. To make a long story short, he still hasn't paid me back. He keeps on reassuring me that he will pay me soon, even with interest, as long as I am patient and continue to keep his secret from our families. I am beginning to suspect I may never see my money again. What should I do?

GO TO your local library, head to the section of books that chronicle the annals of times past, choose a particularly hefty tome that drones on about dead men and ancient civilizations, and start doing some research—because your money is now history. There is an old adage that goes, "A fool is born every minute." Therefore, I baptize you in the name of Jesus, and welcome you into the harsh reality that is Life.

If I'm being rather blunt it is only because I fully commiserate with you, and your letter brings back some painful memories of my own rude revelations concerning money and friends. Allow me to share: I was young then, flush with optimism and brimming with a social generosity that would have broken Gandhi's fast. I was living in a house I was paying for, driving a car I was paying for, and trusting everybody who smiled—a mistake I would soon be paying for. So a work colleague asks me for money (three hundred dollars) for a cruise he wants to take with some mystery girl. Sure. Then he requests a bit more (one hundred and fifty dollars) to rent a car and take this mystery girl to Miami. Fine. A month later, he needs... well, you get the point. In one short year, this "friend" fleeced me of about a thousand dollars. Never paid me back. Later I discovered that this mystery girl of his turned out to be the girl I was courting at the same time. If a fool is born every minute, then I'm a baby boom.

Forgive my morbid mood, but I'm trying to be emphatic here. You are a good person to be helping a friend in need. The world would be a better place if humanity responded to such charity with equal virtue. Unfortunately, we live in a time when one must be suspect of everything, even our friends. Not to say that society is predominantly "bad," in fact, I'd like to believe that most people are generally "good." But, sometimes, people tend to be "good" on their own agenda, when the schedule is convenient for them to be ethical or moral—an arbitrary perspective that weakens the concept of common decency. Wouldn't it be cool if our politicians were just as visible and socially active—kissing babies and listening to problems—even if it wasn't an election year?

Which is not to say it won't happen. Your friend might decide to pay you back as early as tomorrow. It is a possibility. In the same way that it is a possibility that you might win the lottery, or that the Bush administration might finally discover those weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, or that Paris Hilton might win a Pulitzer. Especially if it came in pink.

The best thing to do is to approach the situation with an attitude of resigned disappointment. My father once told me, "If you're going to lend money, you had better be prepared to donate money." Consider your money gone for good and chalk it up as a lesson learned. This way, the experience achieves closure and becomes educational. And if he does actually manage to compensate you financially one day, then it's as if you've gained a new respect for the inherent benevolence of mankind, AND ten thousand pesos!

Armed with this sense of practical defeatism, you can now approach your friend and gently prod him in a last ditch effort to extract payment or at least, information. Be firm and speak with authority; it is, after all, your money. Tell him that you need your money back because a) that new iPod is not going to buy itself, b) you're going on a trip to Laos and ten thousand pesos is equivalent to two hundred thousand kip, or c) God spoke to you in a dream and He wants that money for the Church. Just get the point straightforward with you: turn that cash before the p ther, or is the End of the W settle outstanding debts.

At this point I believe y know (that is, if you eve where your well-earned m The whole "don't tell should have set off alarm place. Perhaps it was to (which I highly doubt) and solation in the fact that it w the service of Heaven. But on frivolous matters such text voting on American I want anyone to find out t Fantasia instead of local Even worse, what if the n fund unsavory activities. su or the training of an al Qa the distribution of pirated to fetishists in Osaka? Forg of your soul!

I would not recommen otherwise, as this will perm relationship. Also, a pers money for mysterious pur the best person to threaten.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mom, I think I'm a technosexual

From page E1

time I raged against a machine. Such a malfunction already happened in high school while I was turbo-cramming a Chemistry report. And a sequel took place four years ago when, pre-iPod, I ignored my PC's error messages and continued filling up my hard drive with tracks I ripped from my vast CD library and, okay, porn. I learned from those hi-tech debacles and started backing up. So what went wrong now? According to a technician, it could've been one of three things that did my C Drive in: a defective board, a damaged motor or a virus. Instead of a whodunit answer, however, I was more interested in finding out why I felt so isolated and anxious in the eight hours I spent without my own computer, completely unplugged from the Internet. I've gone through Web-free bouts before and never experienced a buzzing discomfort reminiscent of Looney Tunes' Tweety when he began turning into Mr. Hyde. Whoa. What's up with this dependence? Am I becoming a computer dork? Worse, am I turning into a technosexual?

CYBER UNDERGROUND. "Hackers" is an intro to the mass corruption of information

Enter the deluxe dweeb

Nope, it's not a bit of intellectual tomfoolery. Technosexual is a real though relatively new-fangled word. Ricky Montalvo, founder of deluxe dweeb online temple Technosexual.org, defines a technosexual as "a dandyish narcissist in love with not only himself, but also his urban lifestyle and gadgets; a straight man who is in touch with his feminine side but has fondness for electronics such as cell phones, PDAs, computers, software and the web." Urbandictionary.com even went on to say that the word technosexual refers to "a man or woman that prefers the company of an electronic device over that of a living being." Who knew that techie redemption would finally be at hand?

Despite his philosophically-charged description of the technosexual, Ricky Montalvo did not invent the word. In fact, it has been around since the 1970s when hyper-intellectuals equated the term with "robo-rambunction." The Alt.Sex.Fetish.Robots FAQ says it in English: "Technosexuality is a word used to get away from the oft-confusing acronym, A.S.F.R., which refers to the sexual interest in machines, robots, androids, gynoids and other sexual devices not really occurring in real life." Or maybe not. To help you with a mental picture, jog your memory back to 1999, to Björk's multi-award-winning video for "All is Full of Love." Directed by big-time genius Chris Cunningham, the video has an eggshell-plastic Japanese feel to it, like the Kama Sutra mixed with Industrial Robotics. Similarly, there's also the 2001 video masterpiece "How Does It Make You Feel" by Air. French model Audrey Marnay stars in the sci-fetishistic vignette shot by Antoine Bardou-Jacquet, where machines malfunction while assembling the perfect female specimen. Those are *not* examples of technosexuality.

MACHINEHEAD. A still from Björk's video "All is Full of Love"

Call him a dweeb, dork or nerd, but a technosexual is apparently more than that. And whatever you do, don't bring up the played out and truly annoying "M" word. "With metrosexuality, it's about style, fashion, culture and grooming for the straight male. A metrosexual man may be seen at an NBA game one night and an art gallery opening the next," Montalvo explains. Talking about his theory, he continues, "We take it one step further by adding technology. A technosexual man may not need to go to the NBA game because he can get highlights and scores via SMS or by browsing the web on his PDA while at the art gallery." Perhaps the art gallery is a bit of a stretch so replace that with, say, a movie theater or the mall. Now, does that sound like every city-centered young person you know? "I would like to redefine the term as a lifestyle where gadgets are a part of everyday style and life. We get emails from people who tell us how gadgets and technology are part of their lifestyle," Montalvo rationalizes. Yeah, the "T" word is all about electronics and isn't at all bound by sexual orientation.

Get ur geek on

Aside from overwhelming knowledge about data-mining, browser hijackers and the like, how can one tell if he or she is a new-generation geek?

1. Let's talk movies. There's an overwhelming technosexual vibe in the Angelina Jolie-Jonny Lee Miller caper "Hackers," the Ryan Philippe bomb "Antitrust," Tom Cruise's "Minority Report," and even "About A Boy" with Hugh Grant. If you not-so-secretly drop references to any of those movies in lucid moments or otherwise, congratulations.

2. You change your cell phone the way others change their clothes. The minute a newer phone model drops, you scoop it up without hesitation even if it's so tiny that it gives new meaning to the phrase "talking to the hand." You believe, though, that owning a US$10,000 Vertu is the ultimate in telecommunications one-upmanship.

3. You're drawn to swanky spartan minimalism so you'd want your ashes to be scattered in a high-end electronics enclave like Bang & Olufsen. An alpha consumer like you needs a pair of B&O's US$75 earphones to go with your PC tablet, Xbox/GameCube/PS2, digital camera/camcorder/camera phone, Clié, plasma TV, DVD recorder and other portable entertainment devices that cost more than a tiny Polynesian island. (Add a cape, a utility belt and hey, you're Batman. To the Batcave!)

4. In line with that, you cultivate an appreciation for magazines like Wired, Res, T3 on one hand, and anything that features Tanzanian-born British architect David Adjaye on the other. Since you belong to the post-backpacker crowd, your version of "Lonely Planet" is "Condé Nast Traveler."

5. You make life's toughest decisions decked out in Helmut Lang, Martine Sitbon or Prada Sport (when you're slumming). A Hussein Chalayan fixation doesn't stop you from exploring mass-market electronic retailers like Best Buy, so you're still human.

Revenge of the nerds

It's unfortunately easy to stereotype these neo-nerds as design, fashion, music, photography, architecture and art types who embrace technology. Doing so makes them sound like a pack of totally vile people you wished would go away. But technosexuals—being dweebs at the core—are naturally nice. In fact, Ricky Montalvo believes this lifestyle has legs and is here to stay: "Gadgets have tipped into the mainstream. I just don't see a world without technology, specifically devices to make our lives easier."

To be brief, all the angst that took place in between my computer's untimely demise and subsequent rebirth could prove that I'm a technosexual indeed. However, along with other youth who were born into high technology, I'm far from dandyish but I do think I'm somewhat narcissistic in a non-spotlight-whore kind of way. Given that and my Internet dependence, I may have found my place in the gadget-worshipping spectrum. Could there be such a thing as a technosexual-in-training?

GET UR GEEK ON. Ryan Philippe and Rachael Leigh Cook in 2001's "Antitrust"

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legal action and consequently discover that you did indeed (albeit unknowingly) invest in a criminal activity, it's going to cost more than ten thousand pesos to untangle the mess. I would likewise think very hard before involving your families in the situation, unless you suspect your friend may be in very bad shape and is in need of immediate intervention. This is between you and him, *mano e mano*, money e money. Try your best to keep it that way.

The road to hell is paved with good intention, and the road to debt is paved with bad financing. Like I said, you are a good person to be so willing to help others out. But History and Religion are rife with examples of the lousy deals that generous people get from others of less virtuous mettle. But we need good people, just not gullible ones. So go ahead and exercise your bounteousness, but not necessarily through financial means. If you are secure enough to continue lending money, then do so with discretion and thorough discernment, with no realistic expectations of recompense.

And since you haven't wondered, this advice is not free. I'd like it back in six months time, with accrued interest. Well, at least with more interest than what I usually receive.

(bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

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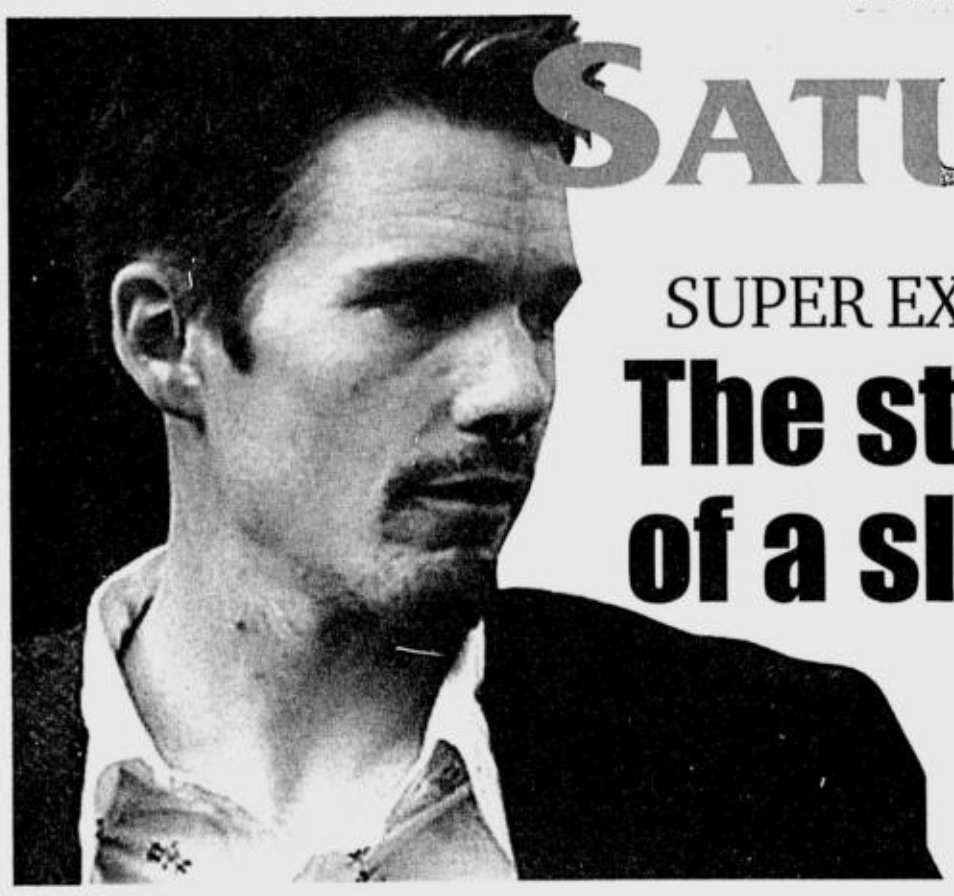


SUPER EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

The struggles and successes of a slacker, screenwriter and solitary soul

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

ETHAN Hawke has, slowly but surely, carved a name for himself as an actor's actor and an all-around creative person, and he shows no sign of stopping anytime soon. Almost 20 years in the business has allowed him to hone his thespic abilities, as well as other talents in related aspects of his career.

But make no mistake, the man is no dilettante. Ethan has received nominations from his peers at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, as well as the Academy Awards for his portrayal of a rookie cop in 2001's "Training Day." He has authored best-selling books, appeared in theater and television, and directed a feature film. And his creativity has, once more, found an outlet in the new romantic movie "Before Sunset," the sequel to 1995's lauded "Before Sunrise."

Ethan recently talked about his extensive involvement in a phone interview, arranged by Warner Brothers, while in Toronto, Canada. He shared that he co-wrote the screenplay with friends and frequent collaborators, director Richard "Rick" Linklater and co-star Julie Delpy. He found it easy to do because he had worked four times with the director before, and twice with the US-based French actress.

"I think when you work with people over and over again, it helps with your confidence," the 34-year-old actor says. "You feel respected that way; you feel more creative. It feels like we're in a band together. I actually haven't been in a band but it probably feels that way. I like Rick. It's great to work with him and Julie again."

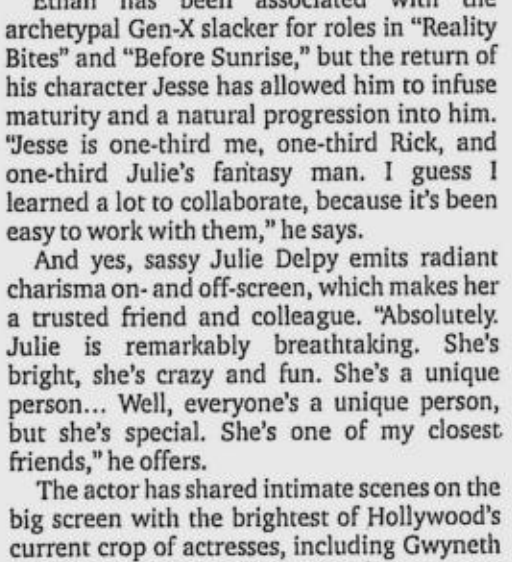
He relates that doing the sequel is a justified move, an effort that critics and audiences abroad have been raving about. "I'm crazy about it a lot. We wouldn't have signed up again if we weren't crazy about each other. It's been unlike any other film I ever made. It's a unique experience."

Ethan has been associated with the archetypal Gen-X slacker for roles in "Reality Bites" and "Before Sunrise," but the return of his character Jesse has allowed him to infuse maturity and a natural progression into him. "Jesse is one-third me, one-third Rick, and one-third Julie's fantasy man. I guess I learned a lot to collaborate, because it's been easy to work with them," he says.

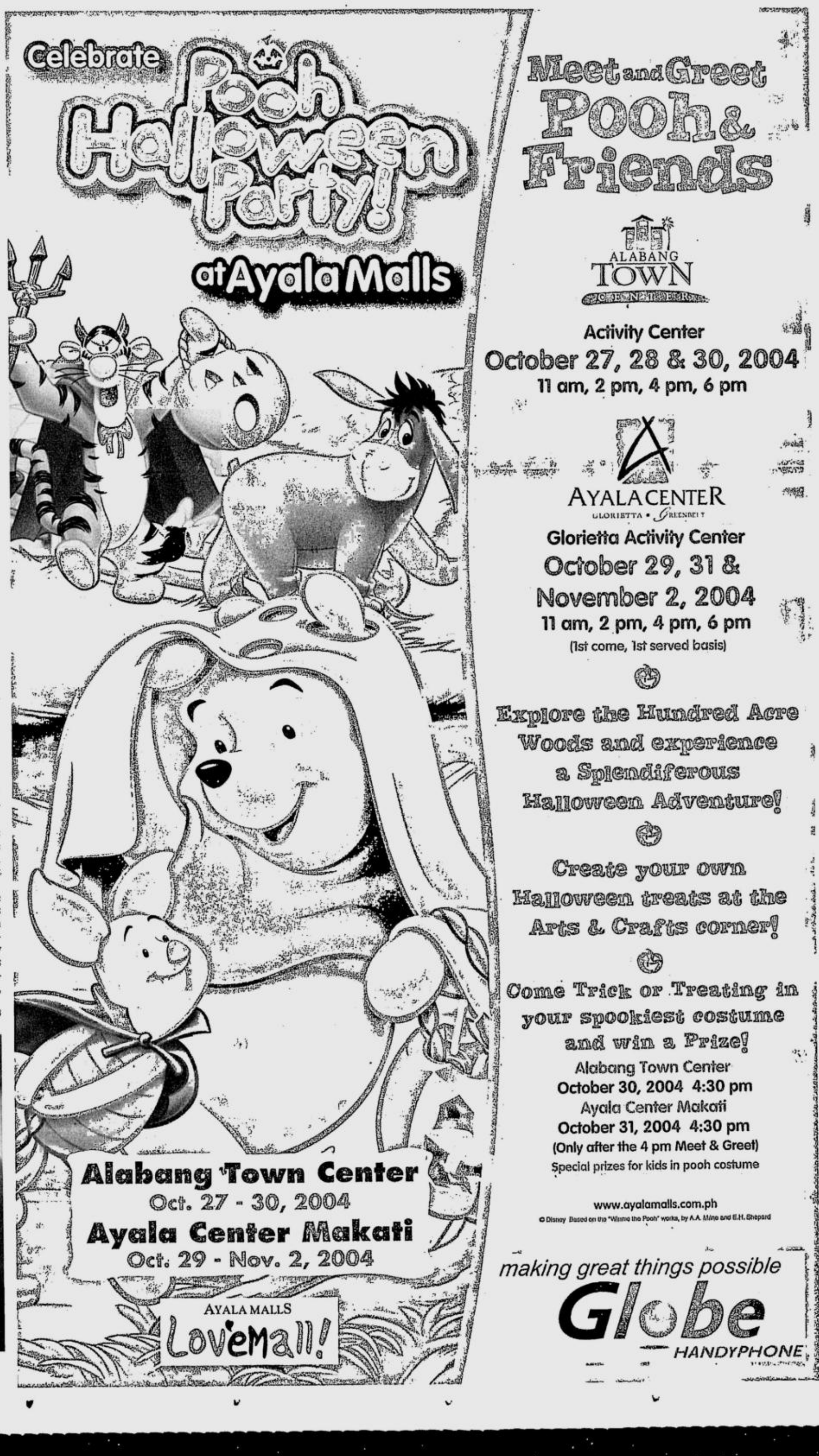
And yes, sassy Julie Delpy emits radiant charisma on- and off-screen, which makes her a trusted friend and colleague. "Absolutely. Julie is remarkably breathtaking. She's bright, she's crazy and fun. She's a unique person... Well, everyone's a unique person, but she's special. She's one of my closest friends," he offers.

The actor has shared intimate scenes on the big screen with the brightest of Hollywood's current crop of actresses, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie, and, of course, ex-wife Uma Thurman. He admits he is currently dating: "Actually, I'm dating someone this evening. I don't even do anything with anyone who isn't famous." He laughs and adds, "That's a joke, man."

THE STRUGGLES/ F3



HAWKE. An actor's actor and an all-around creative person



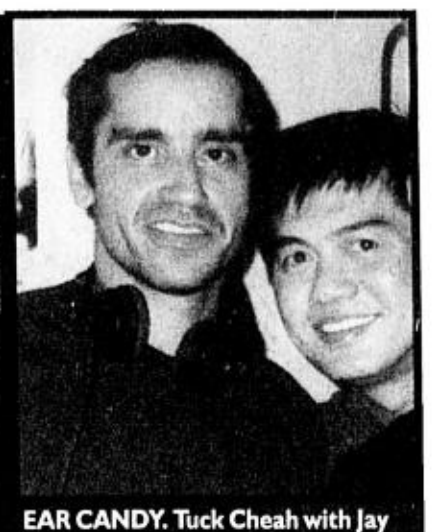
PASSION FOR THE SCENE. DJ TC with Andy Gold

GLOBAL GROOVE. Spinning with Ferry Corsten

UNITED BY MUSIC. Tuck with Paul Van Dyk

CREAM OF THE CROP. TC with Cream's James Burton

ARMED and musically dangerous with Armand Van Buren



EAR CANDY. Tuck Cheah with Jay Hanna

There's a rave at the end of the tunnel

Tim Yap

FOR those who knew Tuck Cheah, a.k.a. DJ TC, he was famous for his frown—a frown that stemmed from wanting to do so many things in such little time.

Maybe deep down, he knew he was gonna live such a short life. At 44 years old, he passed away last week at The Medical City due to aneurism.

"The people here are so slow," he would always complain to those who would give him the time of day. But underneath the seemingly grouchy exterior, this Malaysian born dance scene mover loved Manila so much that he decided to move and settle here, opting to focus on the local scene, where, through his company BigFish, party after party, he brought the world's best DJs to our shores, making Manila part of the global dance map.

We were closing the pages of Super! when we got hold of the news, and immediately, we paused for a few moments to remember the man who brought such endless nights into our party journals, uniting people with his love for music. For him, it was really about the music. He used dance to disguise his true advocacy.

But us who are industry insiders know that. The Tuck that people do not know was such a staunch family man. I can still recall our Super! kids shoot with his son Ken Ken, where Tuck would hide every time it was his son's turn to be photographed. "He'll get conscious if he sees me watching over him," Tuck told me.

Well, Ken Ken would have to get used to Tuck watching over him—for Tuck will surely be looking over his son from a different view now. I could not help but hug Pixie, his newly widowed wife as we both looked at Tuck from his coffin. "Now he's smiling," whispered his BigFish partner, Domini Primero.

Church wedding date

Tuck was wearing a Paul Smith suit—a suit he had purchased last month, with the intention of wearing it for his church wedding with wife Pixie, set in January 2005. "I was so spoiled by him. He loved me so much that he gave me everything I wanted," Pixie told me as we watched over Tuck.

Tuck loved Pixie so much that even while feeling extreme pain, Tuck drove himself to the hospital. "I didn't want to wake you up—I knew you had a long day already," was what Tuck said to his crying wife inside the hospital.

That's our Tuck alright. He ran fast while the whole world walked. He visualized while most would just sit around and wait. He spun his music—and we all danced.

During last season's jampacked Hed Kandi, he opted not to play—a first time since TC is known to open for all the big, foreign acts. "I just want to enjoy this party—I've worked hard for it." Little did he know, it was going to be his last. Well, sort of.

I know he's still within our midst. His body may not be—but his legacy lives on. A passionate love for music, an overwhelming sense of vision for the scene and a tenacity so fierce that it can pack any venue—the younger DJs and scene movers and shakers can all learn from TC.

For now, he is on his way to his Creator, where he will finally be able to prove that, indeed, God is a DJ.

A TRUE PIONEER. Tuck Cheah brought to the scene a certain freshness and a unique vision

MUSICAL MARRIAGE. Tuck and Pixie Cheah during the Pacha party

HIGH VOLTAGE. Turn table action by TC

In beats we trust

By Adrian Cuenca

TC, TUCK Cheah, "Tuck" as I always called him when I met him before he adopted his DJ TC moniker during his pre-BigFish days. At first I didn't like him. The few times we met, he seemed arrogant. In the later years, my feelings towards him had not changed. It didn't also help that we worked in the same industry with different groups. At that time, the crab mentality so prevalent among Filipinos got the better of me. Sometimes it got ugly between Tuck and I or between Tuck and the people I worked with. His straightforwardness and his determination to make BigFish a success was read as arrogance by some. When a man has determination, ambition and passion, you cannot please everyone.

Despite my antagonism towards him, there was one thing that he commanded: Respect. A year or two before he died, the setting had changed. We had become friends and comrades in the same industry. That respect and familiarity with him made me understand why he was the way he was. The more I knew him, the more the respect grew. Take for example the following:

He was widely popular in the somewhat small but loyal clubbing community. His popularity stemmed from the fact that he was a partner in BigFish. He DJ'd in almost every successful BigFish event. He had the glory and the fame as a DJ and promoter. With glory and fame in a pop culture-related lifestyle, the rock star status with all its garnishing was always available to him. Booze, women and drugs were all around him. But he never dabbled in the lifestyle. He took the straight path and stayed on that path throughout his career. He said no to the rock star lifestyle which we other DJs (nowhere near his stature) like to indulge in once in a while. His only vice was the music. The most important thing for him was the music.

He was a man of principle. As DJs download their latest tracks for free on the Internet, he refused to do so. Doing so, he strongly believed, would hurt the music industry. He believed that artists and musicians needed to get paid for their work, so free downloading was just unfair.

He stood by his principles and beliefs and was the only active professional DJ in the country who did not download a track from the Internet, ever. He was very proud of this fact and it was very admirable. How many of us other DJs download for free without thinking about the consequences: record labels closing, record shops shrinking their dance section, fewer releases, etc.?

Attention to detail

As a DJ, he refused to use the CD format insisting that it had a lower quality sound than the more pure vinyl format. This was also the reason why he refused to download the compressed lower quality MP3s from the Internet. His attention to detail was also obvious with the set designs and the top-notch sound systems BigFish used in their events. He may have raised his voice on occasion during the setup of the events, but that was natural if passion dictated that the minutest of details be given attention.

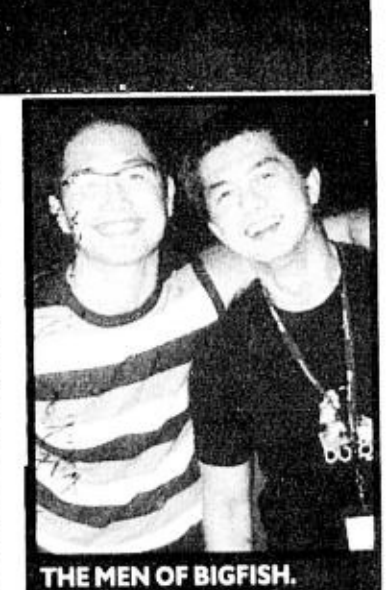
Every time he played the opening set in a grand event attended by thousands, the DJs in the audience gathered together and listened intently to his set waiting for a moment to criticize a mistake or a choice of track. He played the big set and not us and sometimes out of envy, we just had to do it. Though he may not have been a perfect DJ (nobody is), one thing that we DJs noticed was his willpower not to play an anthem. He believed that the art of a DJ was in creating a vibe without necessarily playing an anthem. His resolve was his art, and not to take the easy route by playing a familiar anthem so the audience could have instant gratification. That was also the part of him trying to educate the audience and raising the level of appreciation. How many foreign DJs who visited the country played an anthem? His record collection was always updated. He had all the latest records. He loved the music and he couldn't play the same set that worked last time out on his next set. After all, it is an art form.

Tuck and I shared the same vision and dream. This is to make Manila's club scene at par with that of Singapore, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur (where Singapore's Zouk, considered one of the best clubs in the world, just opened a branch). We both believed that the way forward was to open a world-class club with a top-notch sound system simultaneously operating a radio station to give the scene and its lifestyle the support needed to keep it healthy.

Why did I dislike him when we had the same goals? Quixotic as we both were, his unrivaled passion made him closer to realizing that dream. While I still write and complain about the lack of a proper scene, there were reports that he got past the planning process of opening a new club. While I still play to an unappreciative audience of around 20 people, he played to thousands of appreciative clubbers almost every month.

As passé as this sounds: Dreams never end. His partner, Domini Primero, promised him he would realize his dream. It is achievable and as Tuck proved in his lifetime, passion, determination and principle can get you somewhere. Getting somewhere is a start, and getting to the destination seems easier now because of TC. Thanks for the inspiration.

TILL DEATH DO US PARTY. The view from the DJ's deck at a BigFish party



THE MEN OF BIGFISH. Domini Primero and partner Tuck Cheah

The struggles...

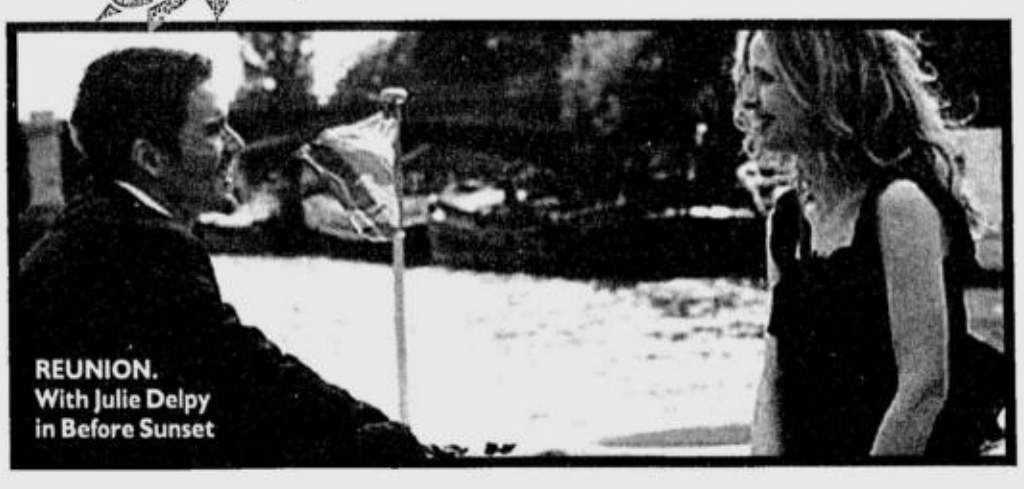
From page F1

But he is serious with being the father of two kids with his ex-wife. While the children have yet to express an interest in performing, Ethan acknowledges that it won't be a surprise if that happens, eventually. "They're still too young to enter the business. They're aged six and two. But if they really want to, it's really not up to me. They can choose their own paths."

The actor-author is also an outspoken supporter of presidential candidate John Kerry, and has often offered strong opinions about the American political situation. He feels that his voice may not be as influential as those of other celebrities, but he speaks his mind on topics that matter to him, regardless. "I don't know if (my popularity) is helpful at all. But other citizens aren't given a lot of opportunities to talk about politics. So if I, in my own miniscule way, help George Bush lose, then (it's helpful)."

Almost two decades in the entertainment scene has allowed him to explore other connected creative arenas. He considers certain challenges that keep him on his toes part and parcel of his life. "Writing books is a solitary experience. The great joy is just personal. The struggle is still to be a better actor. It's always choosing wisely which projects to get. It's a small cause in this earth, but it's mine.

"And the most important thing I've learned so far is," he pauses to think and continues, "Don't work with a—holes!"



REUNION. With Julie Delpy in Before Sunset

Getaway girls

It should have read...

Anielle

"I look up to Cory Aquino because as the first woman president she showed unshakeable leadership in the the face of adversity."

Readers think Anielle is a cross between Ciara Sotto and Aubrey Miles.

Michelle

"I adore Imelda Marcos because she taught Filipinos how to appreciate our cultural heritage."

Readers think Michelle looks like Superl columnist Tina Pamintuan. That's because they're sisters.

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24 October (Sunday)

TIME	PARTICIPANT & ACTIVITY
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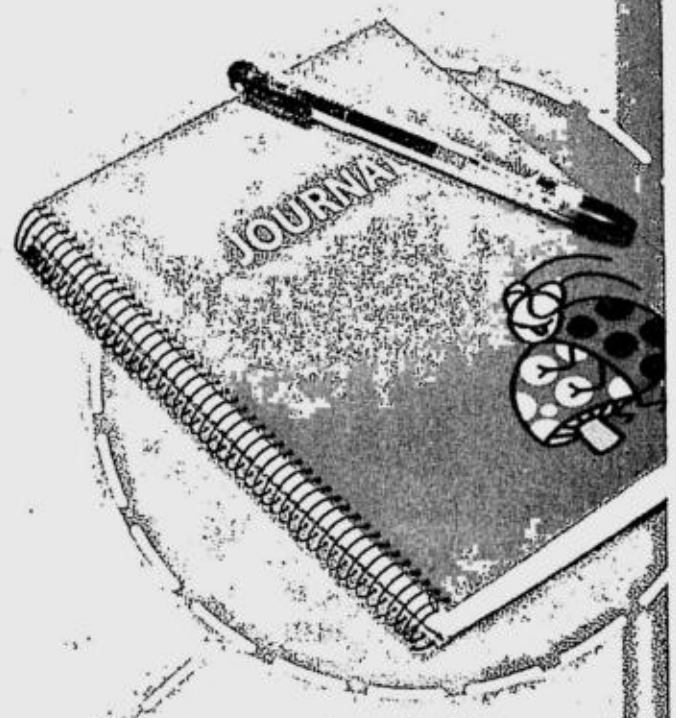

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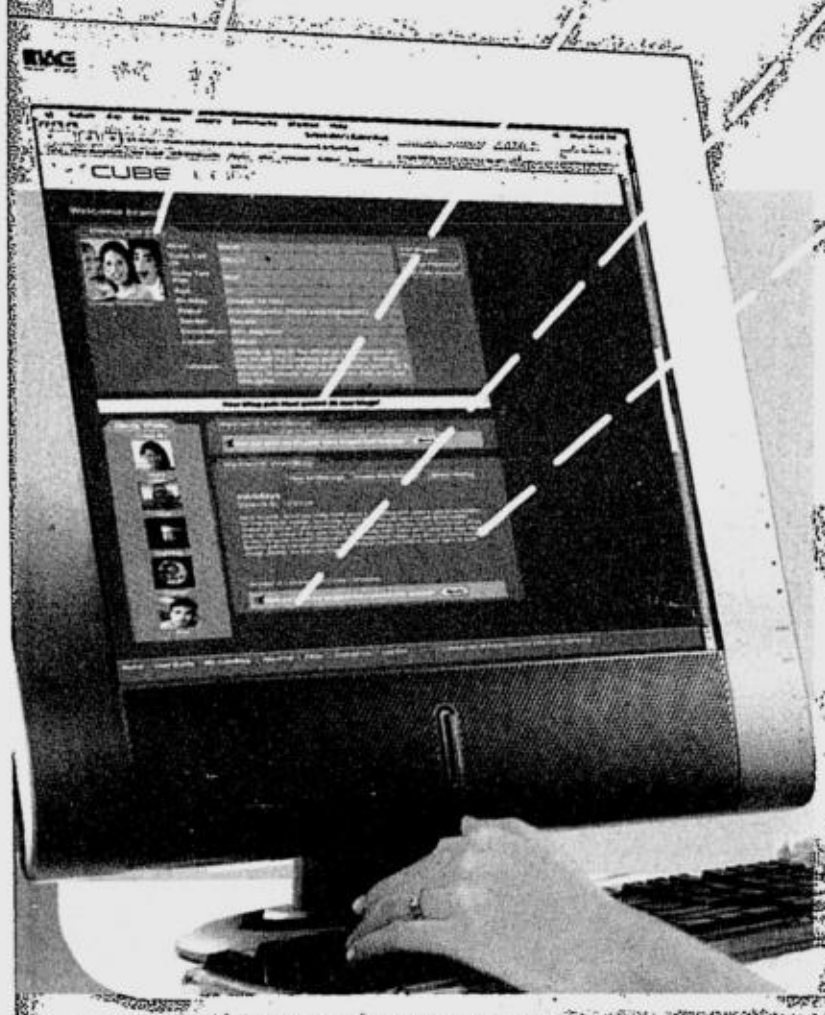

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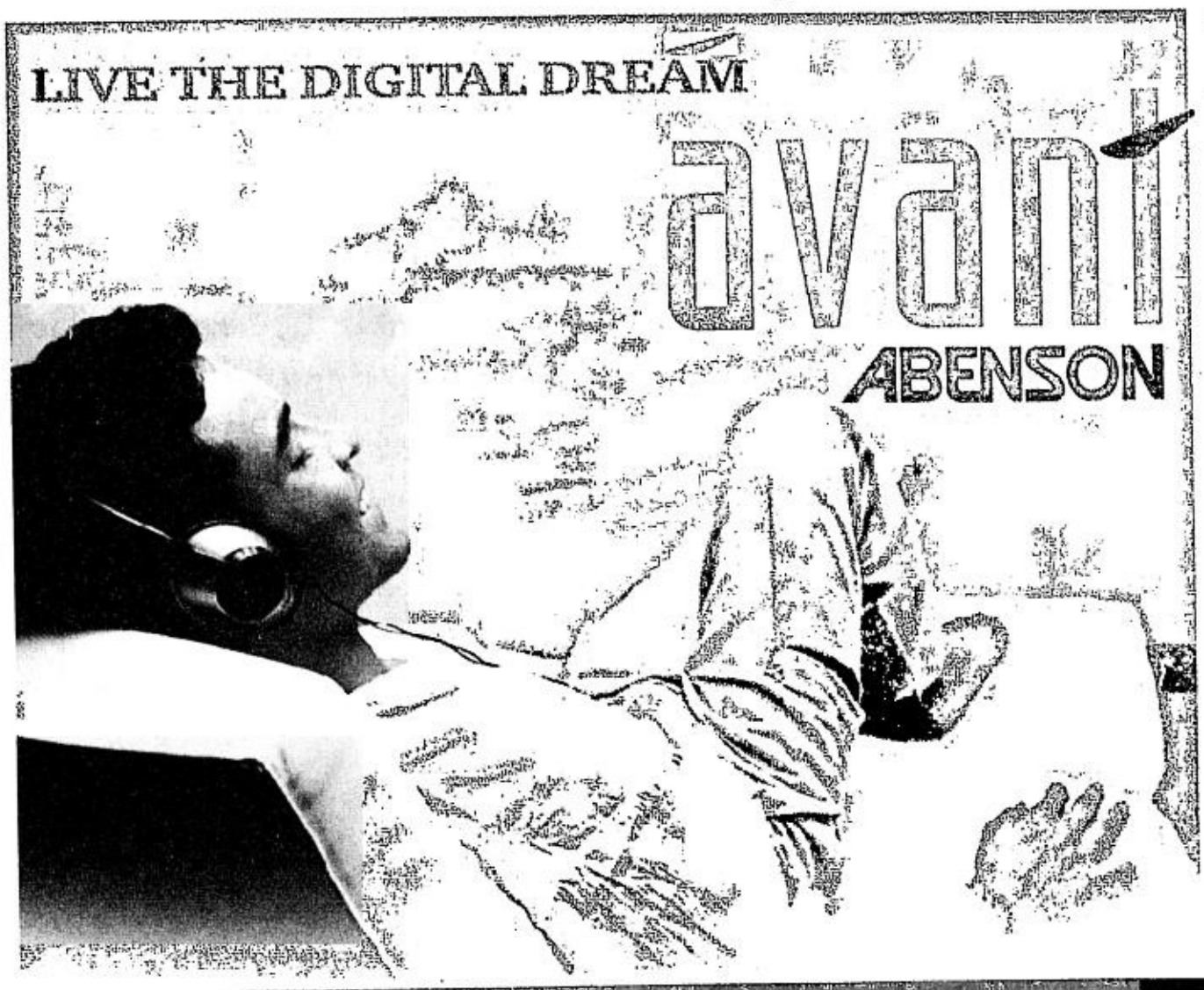

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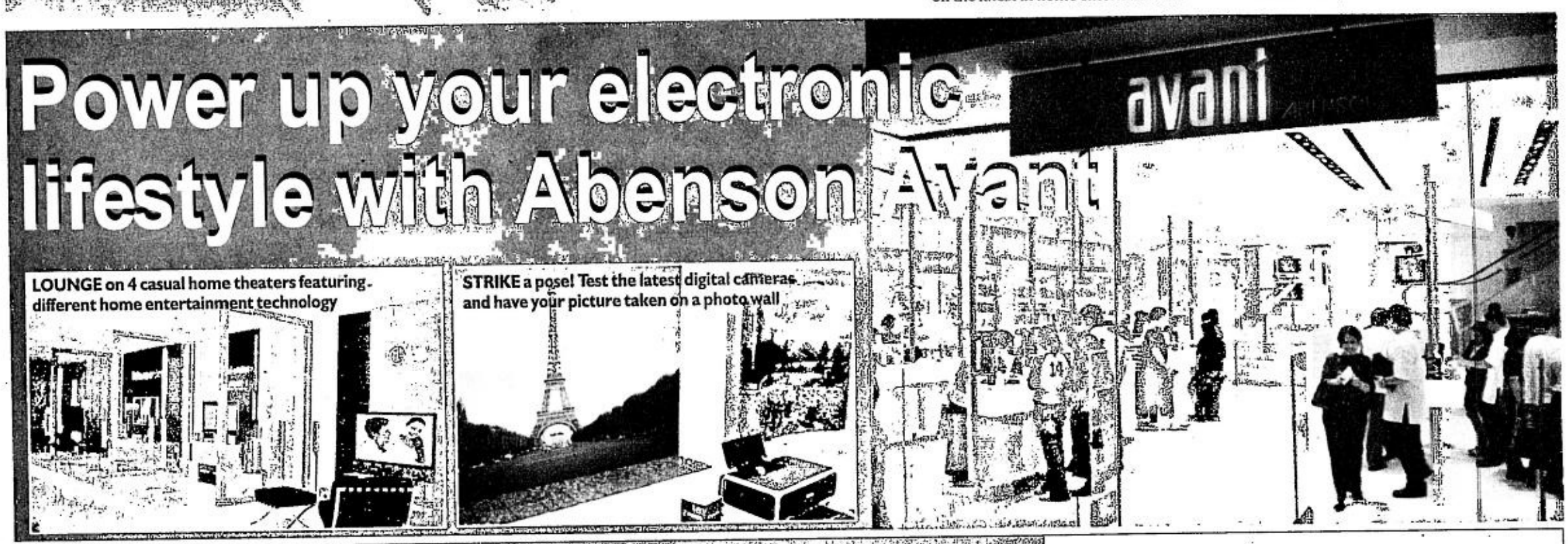
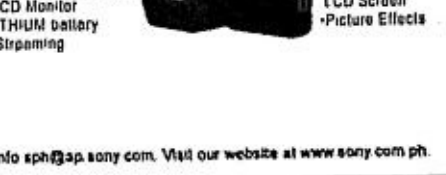
"By combining the expertise and vast experience of a trusted brand such as Abenson with a revolutionary retail concept, we will be offering our clientele the best of both," Walter adds.



Capture life's precious moments with the Sony Handycam – DCR-HC40. All thanks to the imaging perfection of the Mega Pixel Engine. With an array of advanced technologies, the Mega Pixel Engine features an Advanced HAD CCD utilizing High Resolution Technology and specialized Noise Reduction Filters. Combined with the Carl Zeiss Lens, your Handycam always delivers video and stills with superb clarity, contrast and color. Be mesmerized by its vivid image brilliance and true-to-life color saturation on even the finest details, as it rewards you with unsurpassed picture quality. The Sony Handycam. Because perfect moments deserve perfect clarity.

MEGA PIXEL ENGINE



Mega Pixel Engine is an exclusive technology from Sony that realizes high-quality pictures produced by high-resolution CCD. By processing enormous amounts of data utilizing ultra high-speed signal processing technology, it allows you to capture optimal video images, hence producing image quality near to the original.

DCR-HC1000
- 3CCD for superior color reproduction
- Carl Zeiss T* lens
- Mega Pixel Engine
- Advanced HAD
- 5.1 channel surround sound DVD movie

DCR-PC350
- Carl Zeiss T* lens
- 3.0 Mega Pixels CCD
- Stamina battery
- Touch Panel
- Hybrid LCD
- Smooth Interval Recording
- 3D GUI

DCR-DVD201
- Records on 80mm DVD-R/RW disc
- Mega Pixel CCD
- Mega Pixel Engine
- Carl Zeiss Lens
- Thumbnail index
- Stamina Handycam

DCR-PC109
- Carl Zeiss® Vario-Tessar Lens
- Super NightShot Plus Infrared System
- 1.0 Megapixel (Gross) Advanced HAD™ CCD Imager
- 10X Optical/120X Digital Zoom

DCR-PC108
- Carl Zeiss® Vario-Tessar Lens
- 120x / 20x Digital zoom (10x Optical zoom)
- PictBridge compatible
- 2.5" Touch Screen Hybrid LCD

DCR-HC85
- Professional Quality Carl Zeiss® Vario-Sonnar® T* Lens
- 2.0 Megapixel (Gross) Advanced HAD™ CCD
- 10X Optical/120X Digital Zoom
- Super NightShot

DCR-HC40
- Carl Zeiss Lens
- Mega Pixel Engine
- Easy Handycam
- Stamina Handycam
- Touch Panel
- Stamina Handycam

DCR-HC30
- Carl Zeiss lens
- Easy Handycam
- Touch Panel
- Start/Stop Record button on LCD frame
- Stamina battery

DCR-HC15
- Carl Zeiss Lens
- Touch Panel
- NightShot
- SteadyShot
- Stamina Handycam

DCR-TRV460
- Digital8 (Analogue Playback Compatible)
- 990x / 49.5x Digital zoom (20x Optical zoom)
- USB Streaming
- Built-in Video Light
- Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV265
- Digital8 (Analogue Playback Compatible)
- 990x / 49.5x Digital zoom (20x Optical zoom)
- 2.5" LCD Monitor
- InfoLITHIUM battery
- USB Streaming

CCD-TRV228
- 990x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
- Built-in Video Light
- 2.5 inch Colour LCD Screen
- Picture Effects

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Sony Philippines Inc. - 26th Flr. Tower 1, 6766 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1226 PHILIPPINES. For product inquiries, contact our Customer Information Center at Tel no: 6(32) 678-7600 or email at info.sph@ap.sony.com. Visit our website at www.sony.com.ph.

Avant offers new interactive shopping experience

By Joel V. Nigos

WANNA have your photo taken with the famous Eiffel Tower as background and have it printed on the spot? Or why not try out the latest technology in home entertainment by experiencing them firsthand in a home theater setting? Or sample the newest cellphone models, get some drinks or make your own popcorn in the home kitchen, or get cool in the "cool room" with the latest air-conditioning units? And do all of these things while being soothed by a digital music system that adjusts to your profile?

Sounds strange but all of these can now be experienced at Abenson Avant, the newest lifestyle electronics store of Abenson.

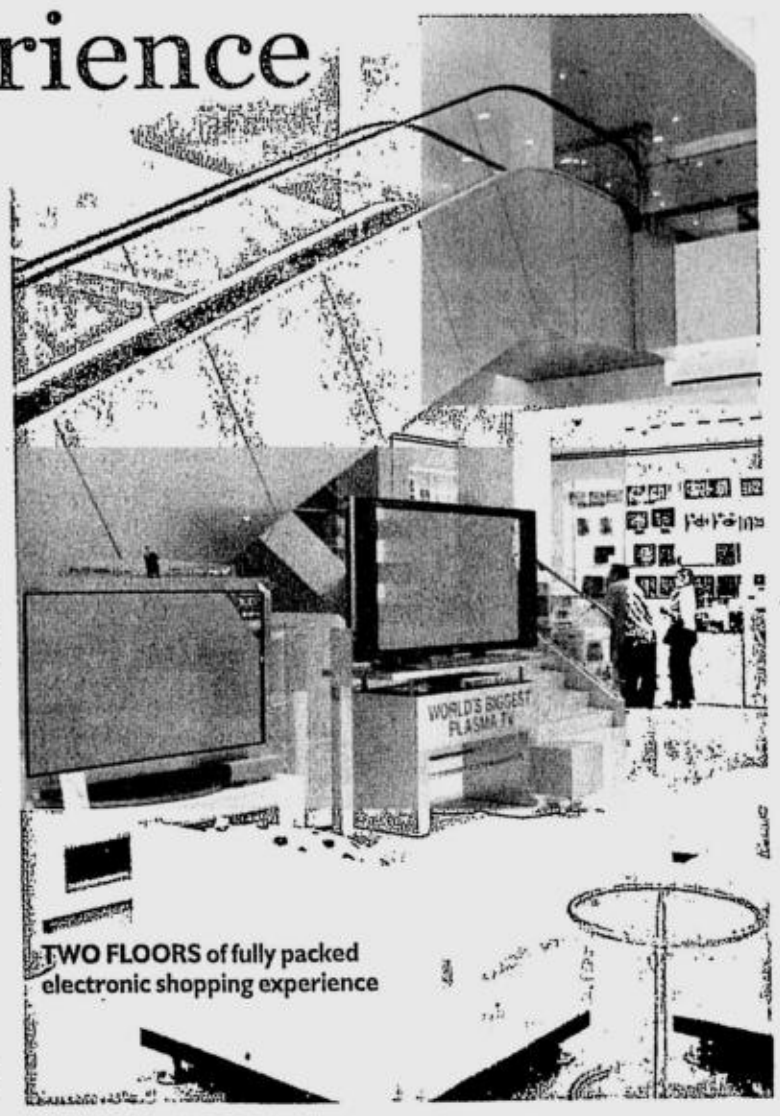
A unique concept which Abenson is bringing to the market, Avant would showcase not only the most modern in technology-be it in home entertainment, digital imaging, cellphones, home kitchen and other home appliances-but also would let customers try out or experience them.

Interactive experience

Avant is a new idea in shopping which would encourage customers to experience the products firsthand while shopping.

Lim shares how Abenson came up with the store. He says, "The plan really is to offer the latest, the most modern in technology. We knew we had to create a very special interactive environment for this.

Avant, an incredible store which invites customers to try out the products while shopping or perhaps just lounging around the place and have fun.



TWO FLOORS of fully packed electronic shopping experience

TRY OUT any gadget as they are conveniently showcased in the open displa

Abenson Avant concept got a lot of inspiration from the stores in Tokyo, electronics shows in Las Vegas and Berlin and also the electronics boutiques in Paris to come up with the concept. "We also did a lot of designs to fit the local market," he shares.

The leader in the industry, Abenson felt the need to always innovate and always come up with something new for the market. "It only shows that we are at pulse with our customers," notes Lim.

Since the company's passion is toward showcasing the latest and the high-tech, Avant sits right well with the needs of the customers who often go abroad just to have them. He says that now their clients don't have to go out of the country. "They can have the latest gadgets at Avant."

Even if the customer isn't planning to buy, Avant wanted the customers to visit the store, look around, sit around, listen to music and sample the products.

A sampling of what will be found at the store shows the latest and the high-tech.

Avant will be the launch pad of new products and new technologies introduced in the market.

5 experience areas

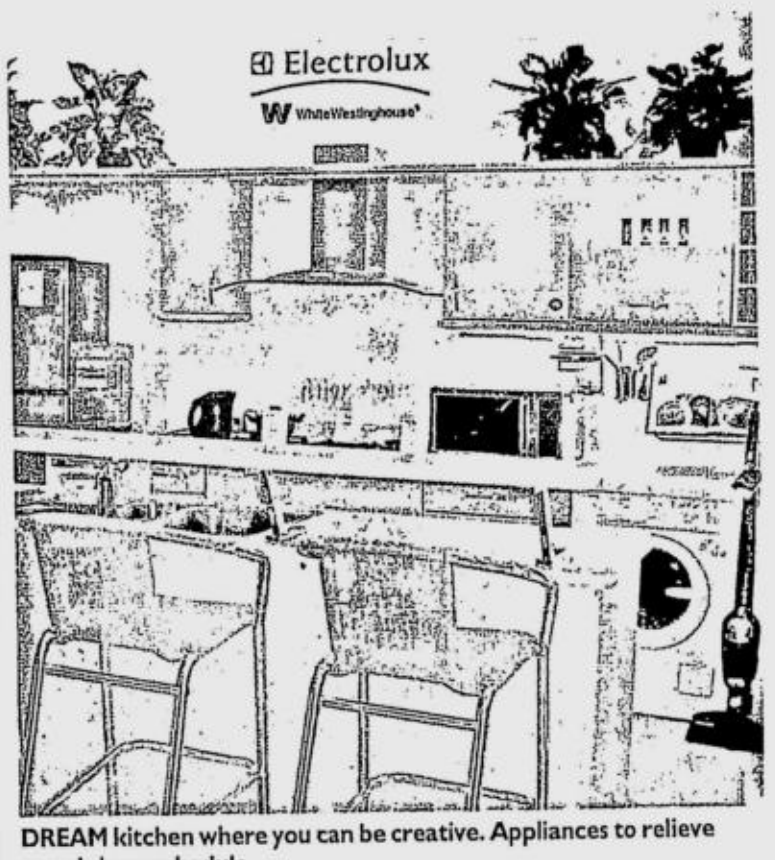
Avant has five different zones or anchor experience areas. These are the digital imaging, home theater, kitchen, open bar for cell phones and the "cool room."

To experience digital imaging, customers can take their photos on a picture wall using the latest digital cameras and have them printed on the spot. There are also five home theater settings for customers to try out the latest in home entertainment. The newest cell phone models are displayed in the open bar where shoppers can choose which one fits their lifestyle. The "cool room" has actual air-conditioning units running while in the kitchen area customers can try out the most modern products for the home .

"We also have the country's first digital music system in place. Basically, we have ambience music during the morning, talk music during the fast-paced lunch hour and groove lounge music during weekend evening. We wanted music that the different market profile during different times of day," he shares.

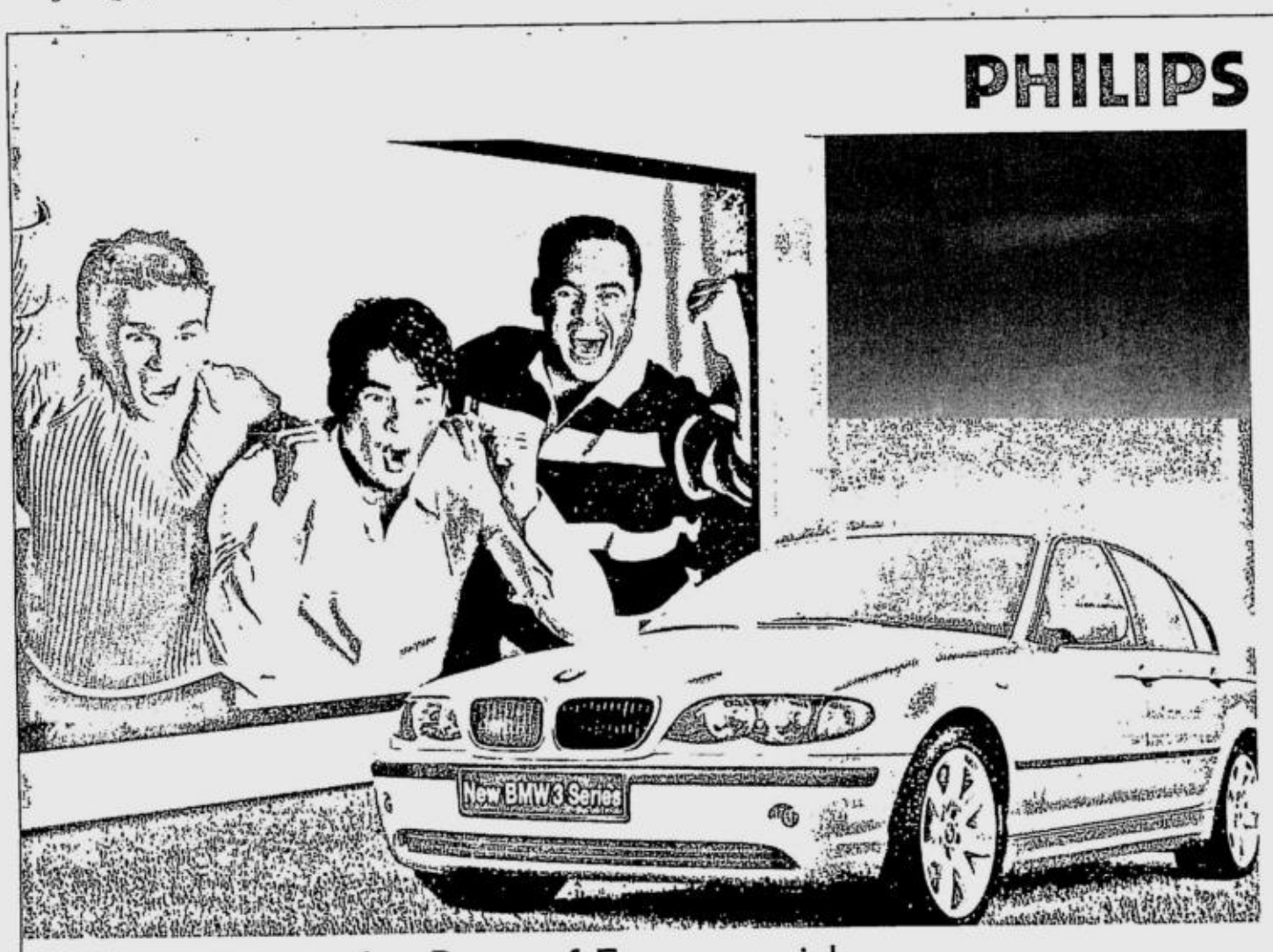
Abenson Avant is proud Abenson is proud to have been chosen by Ayala to put up this new concept in Greenbelt 4. "We felt that Greenbelt is really the perfect location for such a store because of the market and it being positioned as a premier lifestyle entertainment center.

Abenson Avant is proud to have been chosen by Ayala Center to put up this new concept in Greenbelt 4. Greenbelt is really the perfect location for such an electronic lifestyle store because of the market and it being positioned as a premier lifestyle entertainment center



DREAM kitchen where you can be creative. Appliances to relieve mom's busy schedule

PHILIPS



Experience the Best of Europe with Philips Home Entertainment Systems.

Experience the ultimate home entertainment pleasure with Philips and get a chance to enjoy sheer driving pleasure with a BMW. Win fabulous prizes like trips to Europe, Omega Constellation watches, shopping sprees at Prada and Salvatore Ferragamo, Philips products and a BMW 316i.

The actual units may vary from what is advertised.

Promo Mechanics:

1. The promo is open to all consumers who purchase Philips Consumer Electronics products (Color TV, audio products, DVD & VCD players, Philips Keyrings and Philips-Nike products), which are distributed through their authorized dealers within the Philippines. 2. Promo period is from August 15, 2004 to November 30, 2004. Raffle draw is on December 14, 2004. 3. A minimum purchase of Php 5,000.00 single receipt, whether on cash or installment basis, entitles the consumer a chance to win any of the prizes in the raffle draw. The more Philips products you buy, the greater the chances of winning the prizes at stake in the raffle draw. 4. Each Php 5,000.00 worth of purchase based on single receipt, entitles the consumer to one (1) raffle number. Ex. A Php 54,000.00 single receipt purchase is equivalent to 10 raffle numbers. 5. The consumer upon purchase, must send an SMS containing the keyword "PHILIPS" along with the purchase details (outlet name, outlet location, OR number & total amount of Philips products purchased on a single receipt) and personal data (name and address). For Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers send text through 269, for Globe and Sun subscribers send to 2366 The cost of sending is Php 2.50 SMS Format: Keyword<space>storename/location/OR No./amount of purchase/Firstname<space>Lastname/address Sample: PHILIPS Dealername/Makati/41000/54000/Gerard Lopez/103 Pagudpod Ave. Quezon City. The SMS provider shall send a reply message, which will indicate how many raffle numbers the consumer is entitled to. Reply message from the provider: "Thank you for buying Philips products. You are entitled to 9 raffle numbers. All entries are subject for verification. Promo period is from 08/15/04-11/30/04. Draw date is on 12/14/04. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1509 Series of 2004. Php 2.50 per SMS". Consumers can send their Official Receipt number only once. If they try to send the same Official Receipt number twice they will receive this message: "Sorry the receipt number you entered has already been used, please check your receipt number and try again" P2.50 per SMS. If the consumers send a wrong keyword, they will receive this message: "The keyword you have entered is not recognized by the system. P2.50 per SMS". If the consumer sends an incomplete SMS, they will receive this message. "The filename you've entered is not recognized by the system. Please check your filename and try again. P2.50 per SMS" Error messages will be charged P2.50 per SMS. 6. The raffle draw will be held at the Philips office, 48/F PB Com Tower, Ayala corner Herrera streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City This will be made in the presence of a DTI representative. 7. A winner can only win once. If a participant's name is drawn more than once, the prize with the higher monetary value shall be awarded. 8. Winners shall be notified via cell phone and registered mail. The list of winners shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within two weeks from the date of the draw. For prizes that exceed Php10,000.00, the 20% Prize Tax shall be shouldered by the winner 9. Prizes shall be claimed upon presentation of the following: Any valid ID containing picture and address (company ID, Driver's license, Voter's ID, SSS), Proof of purchase: Sales Invoice and/or Official Receipt, notification letter from Philips, SMS containing the notification "In case the consumer's phone is lost, he/she must present an Affidavit of Loss and/or Police Report in lieu of requirements 4. 10. Redemption of prizes shall be at the Philips office, 48/F, PB Com Tower, Ayala corner Herrera streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City from 9:00am - 5:00pm (Monday to Friday) 11. Consolation prizes may be redeemed from the nearest authorized Philips office, namely in Cebu and Davao. 12. All prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash 13. All expenses related to the movement from the redemption area will be the responsibility of the winners. 14. Travel packages, which include roundtrip airfare (economy class), hotel accommodations (four star) and a day tour for 4 days and 3 nights are valid for 6 months only from date of prize issue. 15. Securing of travel documents and other related travel expenses such as but not limited to travel tax, shall be shouldered by the winner. 16. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Philips Consumer Electronics with prior approval of the DTI. 17. All employees of Philips Consumer Electronics and its affiliates, their respective advertising agency, promo agency, PR agency, their dealers, content providers (WolfPack and Pinoy Central), participating telecommunications company (Smart, Talk N' Text, Globe and Sun), their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion. 18. Philips Consumer Electronics reserves the right to verify if winning entries are from eligible buyers of Philips Consumer Electronics products

Prizes at stake:

Major Prizes:
One (1) winner of BMW 316i
Two (2) winners of Omega Constellation watches
Four (4) winners of Philips 29PT9420 (29")
73 66 cm Pixel Plus HDTV

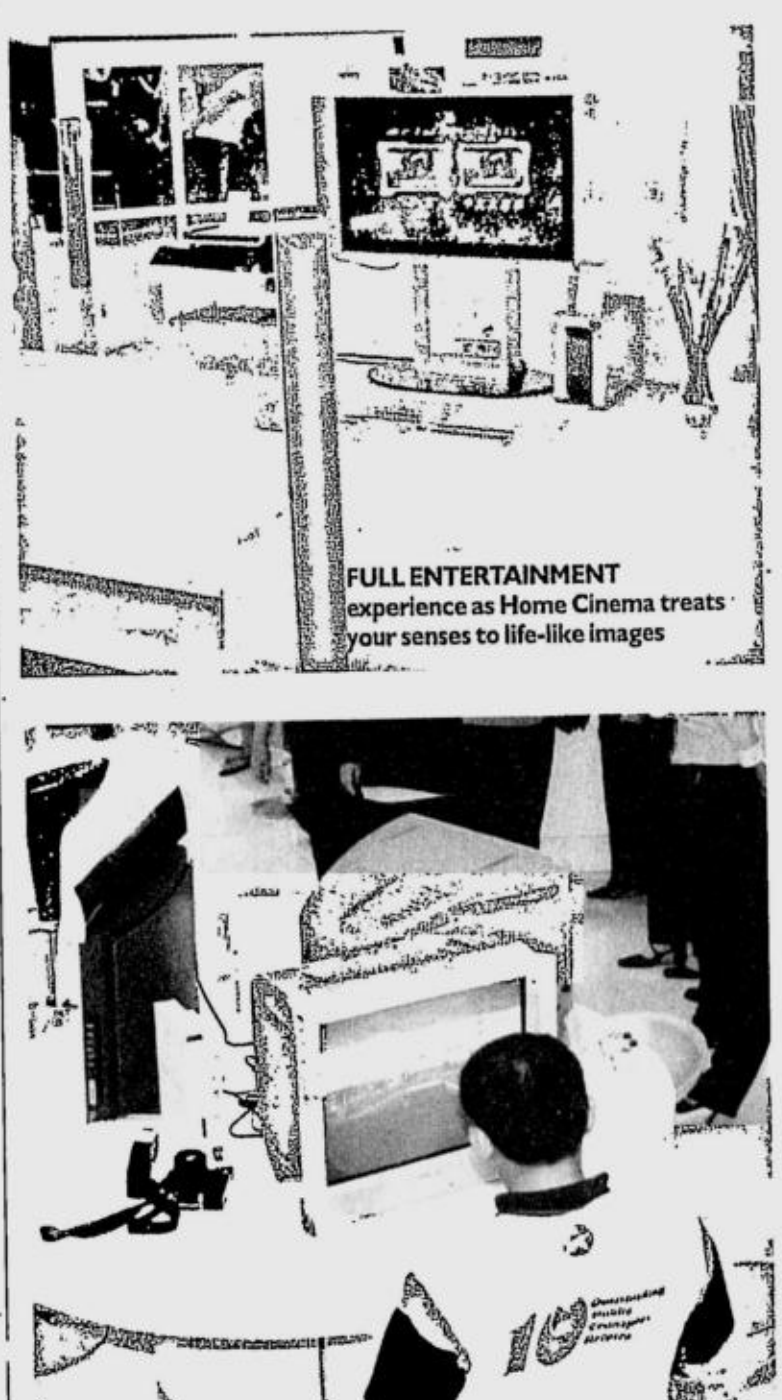
One (1) winner of Amsterdam Trip for two
One (1) winner of Paris Trip for two
One (1) winner of London Trip for two
Two (2) winners of Prada Gift Check worth Php50,000.00
Two (2) winners of Salvatore Ferragamo Gift Check worth Php50,000.00
Five (5) winners of Philips LX8000 Home Theatre in a Box
Five (5) winners of Philips FW-V355 Philips Mini Hi-Fi

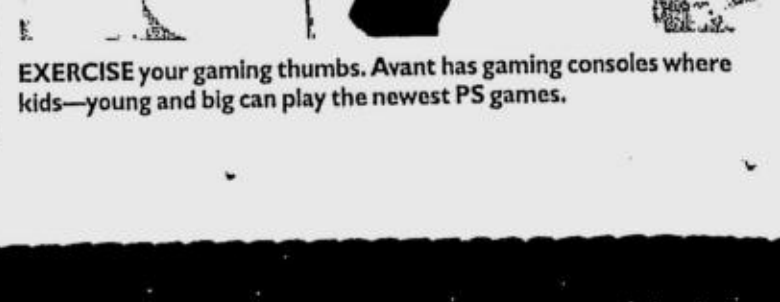
Consolation Prizes:
Twenty (20) winners of Philips AZ1515 CDR CR
Fifty (50) winners of Philips MP3 Keyrings

For questions on the promo details and mechanics, please call our Customer Service Hotline at (6-32) 753-3702. Representatives are available Monday through Sunday, 9.00 am to 8.00 pm.

EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1509 Series of 2004


FULL ENTERTAINMENT experience as Home Cinema treats your senses to life-like images

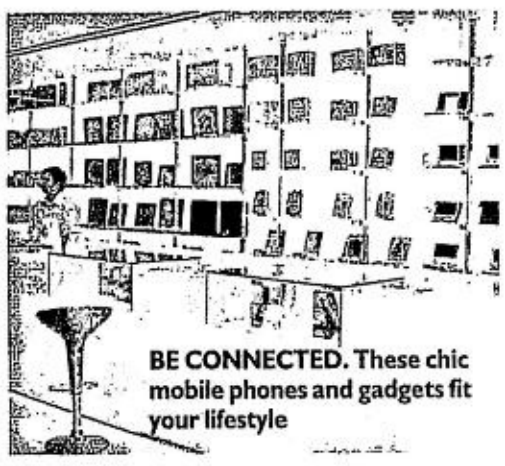

EXERCISE your gaming thumbs. Avant has gaming consoles where kids—young and big can play the newest PS games.

THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY
AT SENSIBLE PRICES

Abenson Avant offers Price Guarantee

YOU see a mobile phone, so fashionably designed; beside it is a tiny videocam, palm-size yet powerful. These, sitting inside a two-level store of glass and steel, and above all located at Greenbelt 4, there could only be two ways you can describe it-really nice and truly expensive. But this perception has been altered by the first lifestyle electronics store in the country-Abenson Avant!

As part of the Abenson group, the No.1 appliance store chain in the country, customers enjoy the same great value on their purchases from Avant. "Abenson passes on to its customers great deals from appliance manufacturers. This is the same value we live out with Avant. We want customers to enjoy a new shopping experience without having to pay more. We want to give customers what they truly deserve-the latest gadgets and appliances at great value!" says Walter Lim, business development manager of Abenson Avant.



BE CONNECTED. These chic mobile phones and gadgets fit your lifestyle

From the beginning, we didn't want customers to think Avant will be expensive that's why we offered Price Guarantee.

To assure customer of the best value, Abenson Avant is first to offer its customers with the Price Guarantee. Avant will match the price of any item advertised at a lower price elsewhere, or get 100 percent of the price difference in shopping credits. Price Guarantee is valid for seven days from date of purchase. Customers have to present an advertisement of the exact item purchased with lower cost. Once valid, price difference will be awarded to the customer in Avant via shopping credits to be used within 30 days from date of issuance.

With the opening of Abenson Avant, the idea of buying advance technology, compact electronics, and fully automatic appliances need not be just an aspiration. Last Oct. 15, Abenson Avant made its debut, the beginning of bringing digital dreams come to life, sensibly.

Abenson Avant astonishes us with their chic gadgets. Amazingly, all these are at standard retail prices. Avant showcases the most innovative electronics and appliances all at great value.

Experiénce Avant

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For pick-ups:
Linis-Ganda will pick-up old newspapers and tabloids FREE within Metro Manila. For pick-up schedules, call Wong or Leo at 430-6274 or 428-0924. Pick-ups are from June 5 to October 5, 2004.

For walk-in sellers, please drop off your newspapers at the following Inquirer offices:
MANILA: FEP Printing Press loading dock, 3817 Mascardo St. along Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Tel. No. 896-4286. Contact person: John Estanislao or Roger Llanes.
LAGUNA: FEP Printing Press, Pantown, Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna • Tel. No. 697-4386 Loc. 2158. Contact person: Rene Chavez
CEBU: FEP Printing Press , Warehouse #1, Menzi Compound National Highway, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City • Tel no. (032) 340-7970 to 71. Contact person: Lenny Brua
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FEP will receive newspapers on weekdays from 9am to 4pm in Makati, 9:30am to 4pm in Cebu and Davao and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1pm to 5pm in Laguna. Sellers will be paid P5.00/kilo in Manila and Laguna, and P3.50 in Cebu and Davao.

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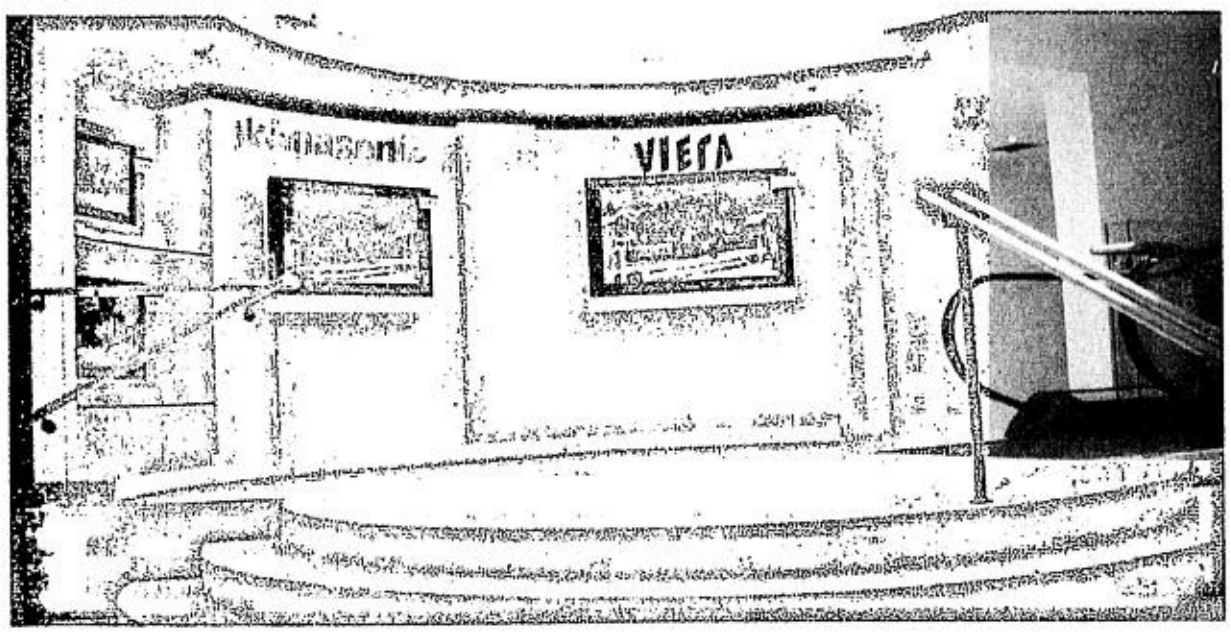
First seen and only seen at Avant

ABENSON AVANT'S CENTER STAGE: PANASONIC VIERA

The VIERA series is Panasonic's latest top-of-the line products: the hottest Plasma TV and LCD TV. Complementing the minimalist interior of Abenson Avant, the elegant flowing design of the Viera greets the customers upon entrance..



AT ABENSON Avant, technology is brought to life. It is a place where new, and fresh electronics break its shell to serve the upwardly mobile market. "We envision Avant to be the place where customers experience products first. That is why we see a lot of new product launches happening in store. At Avant, customers are first to see technology, feel and experience it," Walter Lim, Business Development Manager.

True to this proposition, Avant opened its doors last October 15 with the Panasonic VIERA literally displayed at center stage. The VIERA series is Panasonic's latest top-of-the line products: the hottest Plasma TV and LCD TV. Complimenting the minimalist interior of Abenson Avant, the elegant flowing design of the Viera greets the customers upon entrance.

The Viera boasts of the ultimate technolog. in flat panel displays ith in superb picture technology for richer blacks, finest det ls and impressive depth; a futuristic Smart Sound Spea. r System for cinematic sound experience; an expansive multimedia network accessibility which allows the user to view images from his digital camera or other memory card equipped sources, and even surf the PC and view streaming web videos.

The Panasonic Home Theater System at the 2nd floor of Avant also steals the show with its sleek, ultra-modern design and superb technology that let the customers have an absolute cinematic experience. Avant visitors can likewise check out Panasonic's latest line of Hi-Fi Audio such as Mini Components with powerful sound and superb features. Flagship models of Panasonic Home Appliances such as the Washing Machine with Foam Wash, Microwave Oven with Steam function, No-frost Refrigerator with unique Magic Top design and anti-bacterial features are also available at Avant.

Discover true ideas; come and experience THE LATEST FROM Panasonic, only at Avant.

True idea
It's an assurance of only the very best.
elegance in synchronicity.
elegance in flat.
The new look of elegance. The crisp and clear picture quality.
The latest in design and technology.
All in the new Panasonic Flat Color TV.
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• NTSC (Tuner) / Multi System (AV)
• MTS Stereo
• Surround Sound
• 5-Band Equalizer
• Component Video (DVD) Input
• 16W Audio Output
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